JIRO TANIGUCHI

HARUKANA MACHI-E



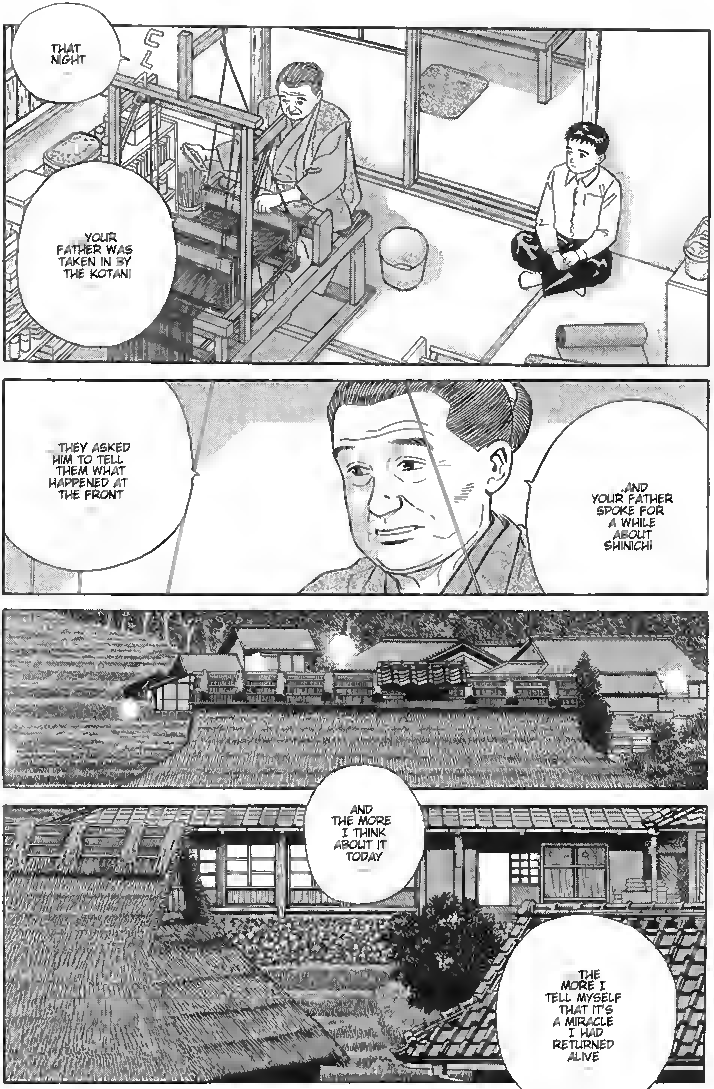
BOOK TWO

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Chapter 1

Dad and Mom



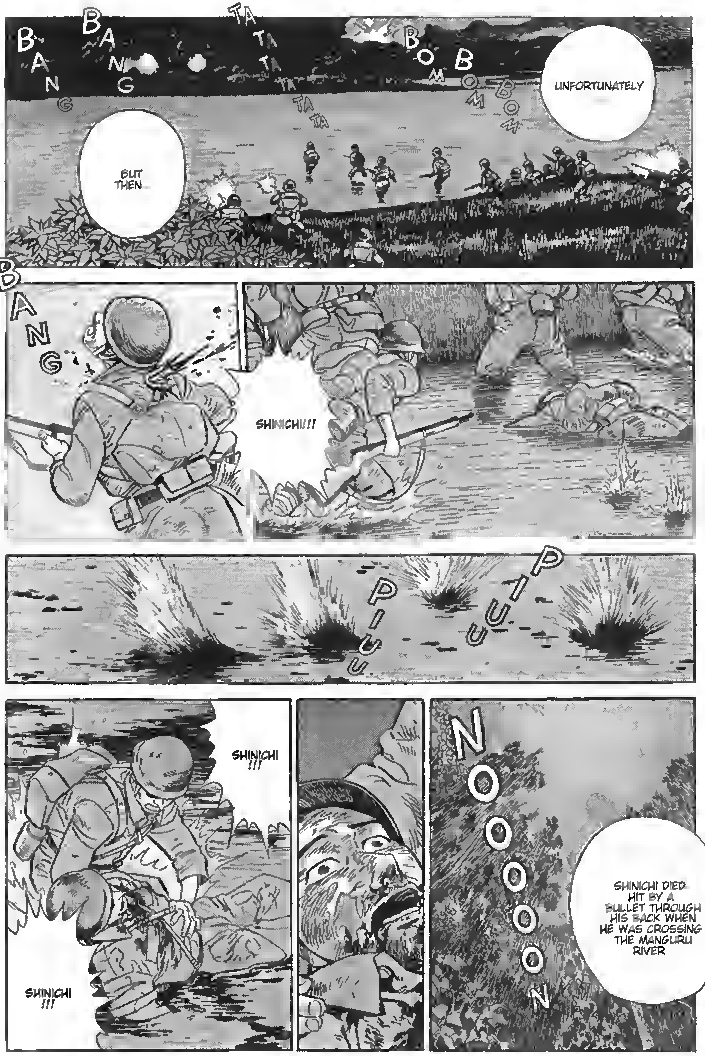

THAT NIGHT
YOUR FATHER WAS TAKEN IN BY THE KOTANI
THEY ASKED HIM TO TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FRONT
AND YOUR FATHER SPOKE FOR A WHILE ABOUT SHINICHI
AND THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT TODAY
THE MORE I TELL MYSELF THAT IT'S A MIRACLE I HAD RETURNED ALIVE


IN INDIA IT WAS THE SEASON OF RAIN WE TRAVELLED THROUGH THE THICK AND STICKY JUNGLE
IT WAS TRULY HELL
EVERYDAY WITHOUT ANY REST A DOWNPOUR PROGRESSION WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN PLANNED
WE WADED THROUGH DITCHES INFESTED WITH LEECHES BUT IT BECAME EVEN MORE UNBEARABLE WHERE THERE WAS STILL THE STICKINESS OF THE AIR
ONE DAY, MEN, HORSES, GUNS, CANNONS, EVERYTHING ...
EVERYTHING WAS CARRIED AWAY BY A LANDSLIDE ON A CLIFF...
IT WAS A DISASTER.


WE THE SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST TROOPS OF THE 54TH REGIMENT
WE CARRIED CANNONS ON THE COUNTRY ROAD BY HAND
TA
BOM
BOM
BOM
TA
TA
BOM
BOM
BOM
TA
TA
TA
FINALLY...
...WE QUICKLY RUN OUT OF PROVISIONS AND AMMUNITION

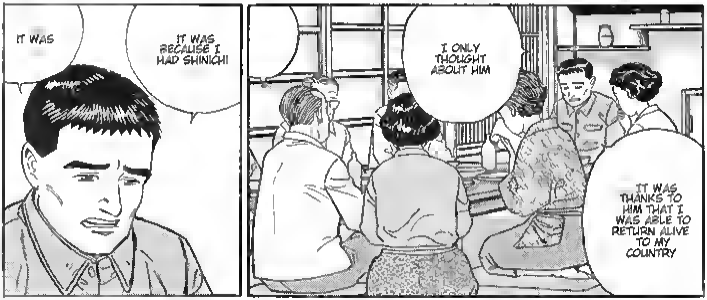

FATIGUE HUNGER...
FROM AN ARMY THAT CAME TO FIGHT ALLIED FORCES...
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT A HANDFUL OF SOLDIERS ON THE EDGE OF EXHAUSTION
FOR THE CAPTURE OF IMPHAL FROM THE BORDERS OF BURMA TO THE JUNGLES OF INDIA WE KEPT WALKING
FOR THREE MONTHS, WITHOUT BREAKS BETWEEN BATTLES
HHR!
HHR!
DON'T WORRY DUDE I'LL STAY WITH YOU
YOU FEVER HAS GONE DOWN QUITE A BIT
HUU...


HERE! TAKE MINE
YOU MUST EAT IF YOU WANT TO HEAL
TH THANKS BUT YOU SHINICHI YOU HAVE TO EAT TOO
HR
HH
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DIE IN THIS SHIT!
HH
HAH
HAH
HHH
I WAS WEAKENED BECAUSE OF MALNUTRITION, AND I CAUGHT MALARIA
FROM THEN ON, SHINICHI NEVER LEFT ME. HE KEPT AN EYE ON ME DAY AND NIGHT
HE WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE AND I ENDED UP RECOVERING
MAYBE BECAUSE WE BOTH CAME FROM THE SAME PLACE
WE STRANGELY UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER VERY WELL... SO MANY TIMES JUST HIS PRESENCE HAD GIVEN ME COURAGE!

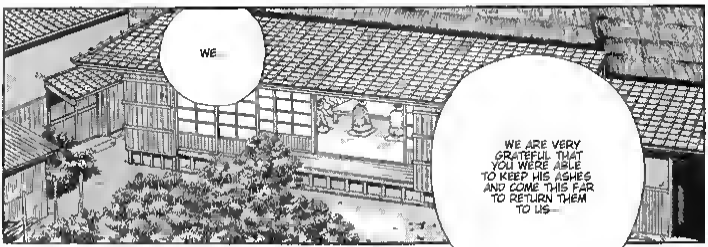

BANG
BANG
TA TA TA
TA TA
BOMB
BOOM
UNFORTUNATELY
BUT THEN
BANG
SHINICHI!!!
PIUU
UUP
SHINICHI !!!
SHINICHI !!!
NOOOOOON
SHINICHI DIED HIT BY A BULLET THROUGH HIS BACK WHEN HE WAS CROSSING THE MANGURU RIVER


THERE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT RIVER, I HAD DECIDED
I SWORE TO MYSELF THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS, I WOULD TAKE SHINICHI'S ASHES BACK TO HIS HOME LAND...
UUUH...
UUUH
AT LEAST HIS ASHES I WOULD BRING THEM BACK TO HIS FAMILY...
I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE I HAD TO SURVIVE
BHO
THE REST WAS HELL...
IMPHAL'S CAPTURE WAS A FAILURE... WE WERE GIVEN THE ORDER TO MOVE BACK
BOM
BOM
BOM
OUR ARMY WAS ROUTED. THE ENEMY TROOPS HUNTED US DOWN WITHOUT RESPITE, UP TO THE MOST REMOTE VILLAGES


MY COMPANIONS FELL ONE AFTER THE OTHER WHETHER FROM HUNGER OR SICKNESS
AND ME, IF I WASN'T DEAD


IT WAS
IT WAS BECAUSE I HAD SHINICHI
I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT HIM
IT WAS THANKS TO HIM THAT I WAS ABLE TO RETURN ALIVE TO MY COUNTRY


SHINICHI HOW
HOW COULD I EVER THANK HIM?
YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH
IT'S US THAT HAVE TO THANK YOU


WE
WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO KEEP HIS ASHES AND COME THIS FAR TO RETURN THEM TO US


CLAC
CLAC
CLAC
AFTERWARDS
YOUR FATHER HAD OFTEN RETURNED TO VISIT THE KOTANI HE WENT THERE TO SUDN INCENSE IN SHINICHI'S MEMORY
HE LIVED IN TOTTORI AT THAT TIME IT'S NOT THAT FAR
HE AND YOUR MOTHER BECAME GOOD FRIENDS
I'M GOING TO
I'M GOING TO LEAVE TOTTORI
EH?
WHY?


AAH... I DON'T KNOW...
I DON'T HAVE REAL BIG REASONS
IF YOU LEAVE...
I'M GOING TO FEEL SO LONELY
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN...
I NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE TO BREATHE A DIFFERENT AIR
FOR SOME TIME, I HAD THE FEELING THAT I WAS USELESS, LIKE MY LIFE HAD STOPPED WITH THE END OF THE WAR...
YOSHIO!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
HA! HA!
I'VE GONE CRAZY, ONE WOULD SAY!
ALL THE SAME, WAR IS REALLY CRAPPY


THE TRUTH IS...
HERE I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT MY LIFE IS IN REPRIEVE THAT IT DOESN'T BELONG TO ME
SO...
GL!
I TOLD MYSELF THAT WHEN LEAVING TO OSAKA FOR EXAMPLE I COULD MAYBE RESTART LIVING?
GL!
OSAKA. IT'S SO FAR...
NEITHER DO I
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE...
...I CAN'T STAY IN THE SHINICHI FAMILY FOREVER...
IF ONLY I HAD HIS CHILD
MY FATHER-IN-LAW TOLD ME
...THAT I COULD REMARRY WITH THEIR SECOND SON SHINJI
BUT...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE I COULD NEVER LIVE WITH A MAN THAT I DON'T LOVE


YOSHIO! LISTEN...
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE ME WITH YOU?
KAZUE
PLEASE...
TAKE ME WITH YOU!
CLACK
CLACK
AT THAT TIME...
MY HUSBAND YOUR GRANDFATHER
HE WAS A CIVIL SERVANT. HE WORKED A LOT
HE SUDDENLY FELL SICK AND IN SPITE OF THE TREATMENT WE GAVE HIM
HE DIED IN A COUPLE OF DAYS


A TRAGEDY NEVER COMES ALONE
I STARTED TO WEAKEN
I COULDN'T LEAVE MY BED ANYMORE AND I WAS ALONE IN MY HOUSE
AND I AS WELL
MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE FATIGUE ACCUMULATED THROUGHOUT THE WAR
POOR KAZUE! I REALLY CAUSED HER A LOT OF PAIN
OF ALL OUR FAMILY IT WAS STILL HER THAT LIVED CLOSEST
SHE HAD TO SEPARATE FROM THE KOTANI TO COME AND TAKE CARE OF ME
WELL SHE DIDN'T LEAVE JUST FOR THAT SHINJI WAS JUST ABOUT TO REPLACE HIS FATHER IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FARM


November 1948...
I'M DELIGHTED, MOM
FF!
FH!
YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR APPETITE AGAIN
THE DOCTOR SAID SO TOO
IF YOU WAIT A LITTLE AND IF YOU DON'T FORCE YOURSELF SOON YOU WILL BE FULLY RECOVERED
HE SAID THAT?
I WANT THAT AS WELL
BUT I'M STARTING TO FEEL BORED STIFF LYING DOWN ALL DAY
KANG
KLANG
HELLOOOO!
AH!
IT'S YOSHIO!


REALLY...
THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO COME AND VISIT ME...
DON'T MENTION IT. THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING...
UM... I'M FROM A FAMILY OF FISHERMEN, AND...
I CAN'T BRING YOU ANYTHING BUT PRODUCTS FROM THE SEA...
BUT TELL ME...
YOU LOOK BETTER THAN THE LAST TIME MRS. MATSUMURA!
THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YES, IT WOULD SEEM...
I'M STARTING TO WALK A BIT...
GREEEAT!
THAT'S GREAT NEWS!
MOM SHOULD BE FULLY RECOVERED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, I BELIEVE...


YES, OF COURSE!
AT THIS PACE, YOU'LL BE IN GOOD SHAPE TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S DAY!
THE SOONER THE BETTER! I'VE HAD ENOUGH
CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR MY DAUGHTER LIKE THIS!
MOM!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I HAVE NO PROBLEM STAYING HERE WITH YOU.
YOU DON'T WANT TO UPSET ME BUT
YOU WERE OBLIGED TO GO AWAY FROM THE KOTANI...
IT'S BECAUSE OF ME, RIGHT?
NOOO! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
SHINJI ENDED UP FINDING A WIFE AND THEY WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED SO I COULDN'T STAY ANYMORE THAT'S ALL!
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN...
...WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE? I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT LEAVE ...
COME ON! COME ON! WHY ARE YOU WORRYING?!
YOU TWO ARE SO UNHAPPY HERE TOGETHER?


KAZUE, YOU SAID IT...
YOU STILL NEED REST YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY UNNECESSARILY
TRULY
YOU TWO ARE SO NICE HOW CAN I THANK YOU?
CLANG
HERE IT'S LIKE THIS THAT
LITTLE BY LITTLE YOUR FATHER BECAME PRECIOUS TO YOUR MOTHER
SO ESSENTIAL
FINALLY
CLAC
AFTER SOME TIME, KAZUE HAD DEFINITELY WORN OUT THE BRIDGES BETWEEN THE KOTANI FAMILY


AND THEY GOT MARRIED
YES
AFTERWARDS
YOUR MOTHER BECAME PREGNANT
IN THE BEGINNING, BECAUSE OF ME THEY COULDN'T LEAVE KURAYOSHI
WHAT?
YOU MEAN THAT
THINGS BECAME MORE COMPLICATED
THEY EVENTUALLY ABANDONNED THE IDEA OF LEAVING


BEFORE HIS MOBILIZATION, YOUR FATHER WAS AN APPRENTICE
IN A SEWING WORKSHOP IN OSAKA
HE HAD THEN DECIDED TO OPEN HIS OWN CLOTHING STORE
HERE, IN OUR HOUSE WELL THINGS WEREN'T MADE OVERNIGHT
BUT YOUR FATHER HAD AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION. EVERYONE KNEW HE WAS RELIABLE HE HAD REGULAR VISITORS
AND THEN, KYOKO WAS BORN
LIFE HAD TAKEN A PEACEFUL COURSE
EVERYONE IS FINE, TODAY THERE'S ONLY ME WHO CAN'T MOVE MUCH SINCE THAT TIME


YOU SEE
IF I COULD CALMY DISCUSS ABOUT THIS WITH YOU TODAY, WHILE WEAVING. IT'S THANKS TO YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER...
Without the death of grandfather, and if grandmother hadn't fallen sick.
If I wasn't born just a bit later..
...My parents would have left Kurayoshi...
Between the lines of my grandmother's story, I had made out something, maybe regret, buried in the bottom of the hearts of my father and mother...


So, maybe my father...
...Dreamed in secret of another place, somewhere else...
...A dream that he had to sacrifice, for fifteen years, for the good of his family?..
In spite of everything, it's hard to understand...
So much so that he abandonned a happy family, the relatives that loved him...
For an unlikely place So faraway...
What terrible resentment did my father have to keep secret?

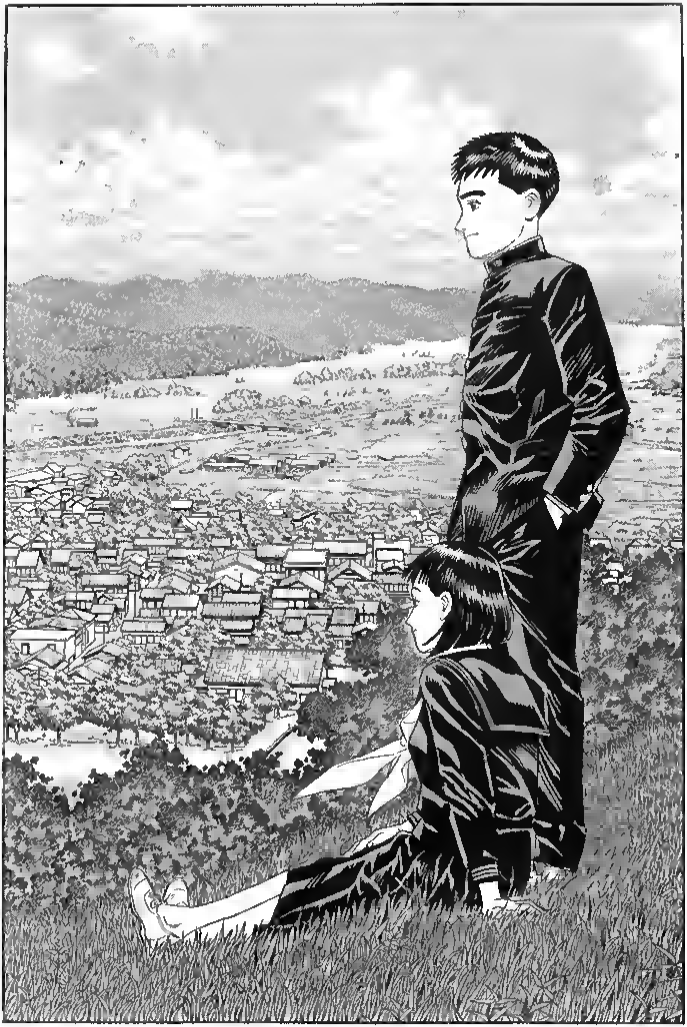

WE'RE BAAACK!!!
R R R R R
WE'RE HEEERE!
EH, OH! GRAND-MAAA!
REALLY?
YOU ALREADY CAME BACK?
THE MOVIE WAS GOOD?
NOT BAD! I LIKED IT
BUT TELL ME! WHO'S THERE?
HAAA!
LOOK!
GRANDMA!
OOOH!
HOW PRETTY!
YOU SAW?
THEY'RE RED!!!



*BOWL OF RICE WITH CHICKEN AND EGGS

Chapter 2

The Paths of Love



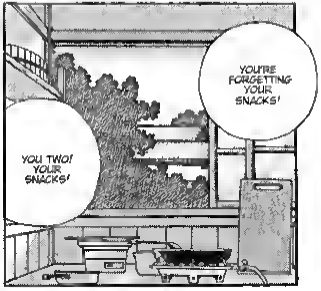

中原洋服店
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS KYOKO?
HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR BREAKFAST
I'M SUPER-LAAATE!
NO NO YOU STILL HAVE SOME TIME
YOU WENT TO SLEEP LATE, DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH
I'LL BET YOU WERE EXCITED BECAUSE OF YOUR NEW SHOES.
AM I WRONG?
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT YOU EVEN SLEPT WITH THEM ON
THAT'S TO SAY
I WANTED TO TRY THEM ON AND BANG I FELL ASLEEP



*A CUSTARD MADE WITH EGGS AND CHICKEN AND SERVED VERY HOT IN A CUP

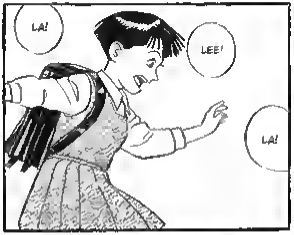

I don't understand...
WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU ASKED FOR IT.
DO YOU WANT ME TO MAKE SOME THIS EVENING?
IN MY DEFENSE, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU LAST MADE IT
Why does my father have to leave such a happy family?
YES!!!
Why do this man and this woman have to be separated?
FINALLY SOME CHAWAN-MUSHI!
ONE DAY I'LL SHOW YOU THE RECIPE KYOKO
HIROSHI! WHAT ARE YOU DAYDREAMING ABOUT?
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF TO HURRY UP!
INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT US LIKE A STONE DOG
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE SOUP?
NO
MMM


MMF!
MURFF!
THE FIRST MEAL OF THE DAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE! I'VE TOLD YOU THAT A THOUSAND TIMES!


YOU'RE FORGETTING YOUR SNACKS!
YOU TWO! YOUR SNACKS!


中原洋服店
GOODBYE EVERYONE!


Li!


LA!
LEE!
LA!


What pain did my father have hidden deep in his heart?


HIROSHI!!!
HURRY UP!!


WHAT MUST BE DONE FIRST OF ALL IS TO MULTIPLY
THE TWO VARIABLES BY 6.
YOU SEE? IT'S NOT COMPLICATED.
THE WE ISOLATE THE X...
7X=28
How can I stop my father from leaving?
PFT!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? ALWAYS THINK FIRST ABOUT
ELIMINATING THE VARIABLES.
HRMM!!!
GRAT
GRAT


SEE HERE!
NAKAHARA!!
HM?
PRESENT!
IT'S NO LONGER ROLL CALL NAKAHARA. CLASS HAS BEEN IN SESSION
SINCE HALF AN HOUR AGO DID YOU NOT NOTICE?
UMM SORRY
THAT'S ENOUGH! NOW ATTOLT THIS EQUATION
IS THERE A GOOD SOUL WHO CAN SOLVE IT FOR ME?
UMM
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF YOU
YOU SIT DOWN AND LISTEN TO YOUR CLASSMATES.
HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA! HA!
YAMASHITA!
TO THE BLACKBOARD!


HAH!
HAH!
HMH!
HH!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
NOT BAD!
RRH!
ANOTHER LAP!
HAH!
RRH!
HAH!
WHAT'S WRONG NAKAMURA?
P
A
F
AIE!
YOU WANT TO TRY CONCENTRATING A LITTLE YES OR NO?

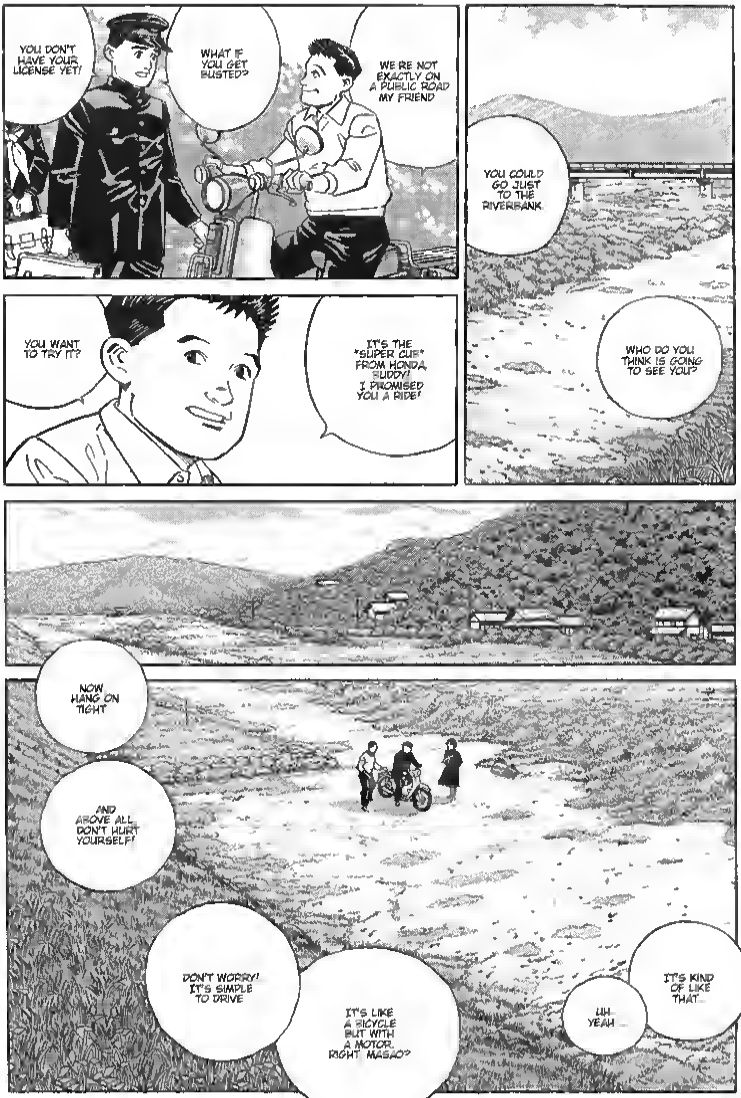

HAH!
HAH!
HH!
HAH!
HAH
HAH!
HRH!
HAH!
HUH!
WELL NOW PLAYBOY YOU'RE ON YOUR KNEES?
HH!
HH!
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED
IT WOULDN'T BE THAT WE'RE THINKING TOO MUCH OF THE PRETTY TOMOKO?
HH!
HUUH!
YOU SAY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WE ALL SEE
YOU WENT TO THE MOVIES WITH HER. EVERYBODY KNOWS!

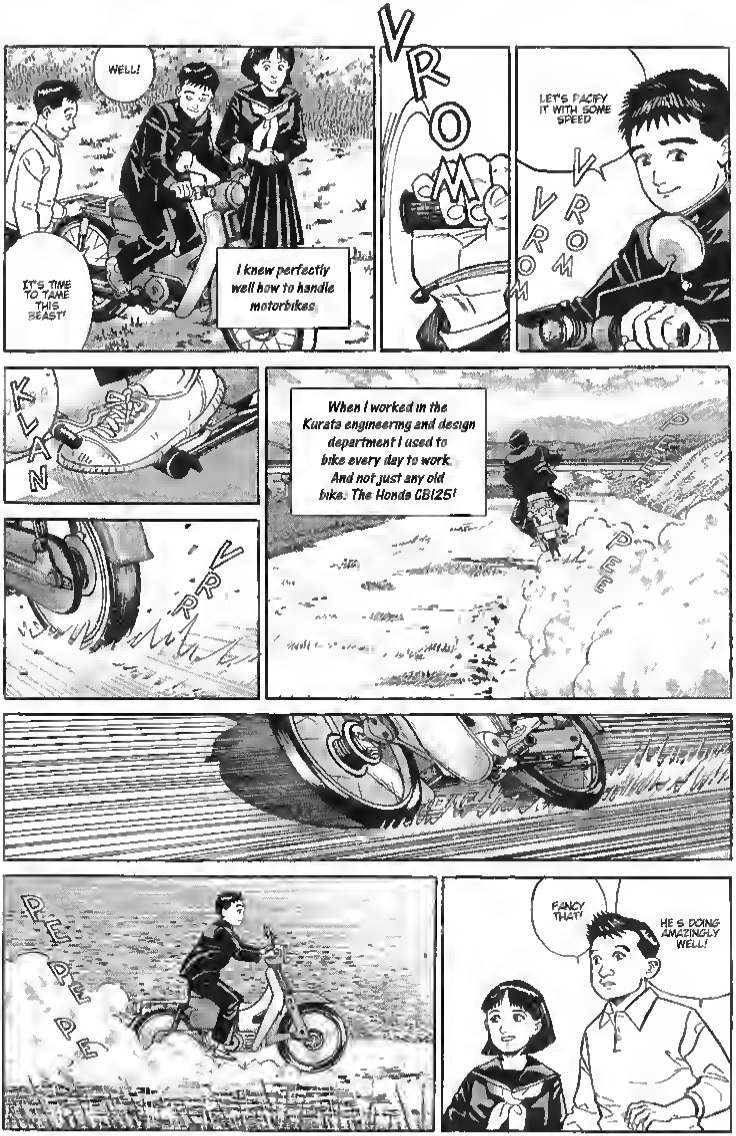

TOMOKO'S A GOOD GIRL
SHE'S ALREADY AN ADULT UNLIKE YOU LOT
SHE'S ONLY 14 YEARS OLD
BUT SHE'S ALREADY GOT HER DREAM, GOOD FOR HER!
WHAT ARE YOU BLABBERING ABOUT?
I'LL SHOW YOU SOME DREAMS!
HEY!
DON'T GET COCKY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THESE ANTICS UP?
THREE AT RANDOM!
RUN AN EXTRA LAP!
NAKAHARA!
TAKASAKI!
HAMADA!
ON THE TRACK! NOW!
OH NOOO!
HOP TO IT! AN EXTRA LAP FOR THE DREAMERS
HA! HA! HA! HA!
HAHAHA
GO ON! GO ON! SHOW SOME NERVE!


WHOA!
IF I COULD ONLY GET SOME SLEEP ...
FIFTY I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
MIDTERMS ARE COMING UP SHORTLY. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
I CAN'T WAIT FOR SUMMER BREAK!
HIROSHI...


WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD ALL DAY. YOU'RE NOT THE SAME ANYMORE
YOU THINK SO?
..
IS IT MY FAULT?
WHAT?
IS IT BECAUSE WE WENT TO THE CINEMA?
DID THE GUYS HASSLE YOU OVER IT?
NOT REALLY
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING ANYWAYS
HOW ABOUT YOU, TOMOKO? DIDN'T ANYONE SAY ANYTHING TO YOU ABOUT IT?
YEAH...
BUT I DON'T CARE


HIROSHI, YOU'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING FROM ME ARE YOU?
YOU CAN TELL ME, YOU KNOW IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME
HA! HA! HA!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HOW COULD ANYONE NOT LIKE YOU?
REALLY?
THEN, THAT'S OKAY
PUT PUT PUT
PUT PUT PUT
BEEP!
MASAO!
PET PET
HEH, HEH HEH
KIJ


YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR LICENSE YET!
WHAT IF YOU GET BUSTED?
WE'RE NOT EXACTLY ON A PUBLIC ROAD MY FRIEND
YOU COULD GO JUST TO THE RIVERBANK
WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO SEE YOU?
YOU WANT TO TRY IT?
IT'S THE "SUPER CUB" FROM HONDA, SUDDY! I PROMISED YOU A RIDE!
NOW HANG ON TIGHT
AND ABOVE ALL DON'T HURT YOURSELF!
DON'T WORRY! IT'S SIMPLE TO DRIVE
IT'S LIKE A BICYCLE BUT WITH A MOTOR, RIGHT MASAO?
UH, YEAH...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE THAT...


WELL!
IT'S TIME TO TAME THIS BEAST!
I knew perfectly well how to handle motorbikes.
VROOM
LET'S PACIFY IT WITH SOME SPEED
VROOM
KLAN
When I worked in the Kurata engineering and design department I used to bike every day to work. And not just any old bike. The Honda CB125!
PEE
PEE
PEE
PEE
PEE
FANCY THAT!
HE'S DOING AMAZINGLY WELL!


HIII
KLAN
VROOM
PEE
PEE
PEE
PEE
I rediscovered this feeling of freedom, of freshness, that I'd avoided for too long.
PEE
PEE
VROO
IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'D DONE THIS YOUR ENTIRE LIFE!
WHOA!
COOL!
I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY TOO. CAN I RIDE WITH YOU?
W-WHA?

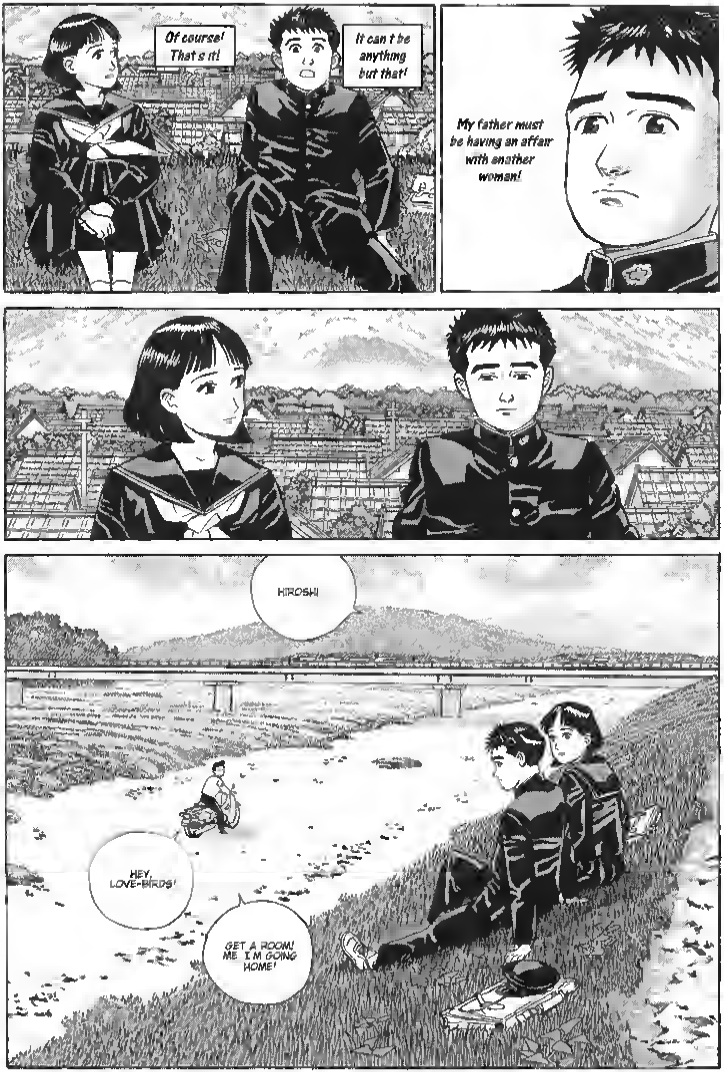

YOU WANT TO RIDE?
YOU'RE SURE ABOUT IT?
YES!
HOLD ON TIGHTLY TO ME AND DON'T LET GO, OK?
HIROSHI! GO EASY ALL THE SAME WILL YOU?
BEEEEK!!!
VRAA
PEEEEEE
WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT GUY?
AS IF HE DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE
HA! HA! HA! YOU WERE SCARED, WEREN'T YOU?
PEEEE
WITH YOU, NEVER


SPEED
HIROSHI
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE
At that precise instant, I completely forget that I was 42 years old.
SPEED
I let myself be swept up completely in the current of my new-found youth.


PEEP PEEP
TOMOKO
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO INTERFERE WITH THINGS THAT ARE NONE OF MY BUSINESS BUT...
THANKS TO YOU TWO I'M SEEING DOUBLE!
ATTENTION! THIS IS THE END TERMINAL. ALL PASSENGERS PLEASE DISEMBARK!
IF YOU ASK ME
YOU COULD STAND TO BE A LITTLE MORE ...DISCREET
WELL?
THAT GIVES YOU THE SHIVERS, RIGHT?
UM.
YES
IT'S...
THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE THAT I'VE FELT THEM.


All right!... What's this?
PEEE
PET
PET
PET
PET
PET
This little... Am I really in the process of falling in love with her?
What a pickle! I'm 48 years old! I have a wife and kids!
COME NOW.
YOU'RE NOT THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT THIS ARE YOU MR. NAKAHARA?
I'M THE MOST S SERIOUS MAN IN THE W WORLD
MISS KAYO
HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT A QUICK FLING
BUT WHO'S TALKING ABOUT A F-FLING?


SO, IT'S TRUE?
YOU'LL LEAVE YOUR WOMAN FOR ME?
IT'S LIKE I S-SAID!
HIC! S-SO WHAT? SHE DOESN'T C CARE ANYWAY!
OH-HO!
YOU'RE SAYING SUCH SILLY THINGS
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR TWO DAUGHTERS? WILL YOU LEAVE THEM TOO?
BAH. THEM T TOO IT'S BEEN A WHILE S SINCE THEY LISTENED TO ME
ALWAYS ON THE S-SIDE OF THEIR MOTHER!
COME ON THAT'S NORMAL
IT'S LIKE THAT IN EVERY FAMILY.
GULP
MAYBE, S-BUT I M S-SAD
HONESTLY!
HI! HI! HI!
AND S-SO S-SAD
YOU BELIEVE ME DON'T YOU? KAYO? I M S-SERIOUS
PEEE
PEEE
PEE
PET
PET
PET


Of course! That's it!
It can't be anything but that!
My father must be having an affair with another woman!
HIROSHI
HEY, LOVE-BIRDS!
GET A ROOM! ME, I'M GOING HOME!

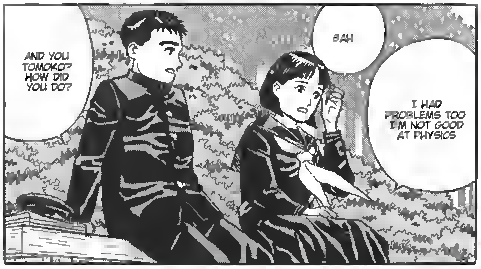
Chapter 3

A Pretty Woman



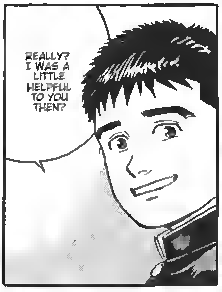

THERE ARE...
5 MINUTES REMAINING!
THE RESULTANT OF TWO VECTORS OF THE SAME STRENGHT AND OPPOSITE DIRECTION?
PFF. BUT WHAT THE HECK DO I KNOW?
ALRIGHT
DOUBLE CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR NAME, LAST NAME AND STUDENT ID NUMBER
DING DONG
END OF EXAM!
PENCILS DOWN!


ARGH
I WAS CHEATED!
I DON'T STUDY ONE TOPIC AND IT'S THE ONE ON THE EXAM!
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!
I'M GOING TO BED! GOOD NIGHT EVERYONE!
I HAVE TO SAY THAT I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO REVISE
OH REALLY? WHY?
YOU HAD TROUBLE?
PHYSICS IT'S NEVER BEEN MY BEST SUBJECT
NEITHER WAS MUSIC
YES
WELL... NO IT'S JUST THAT...

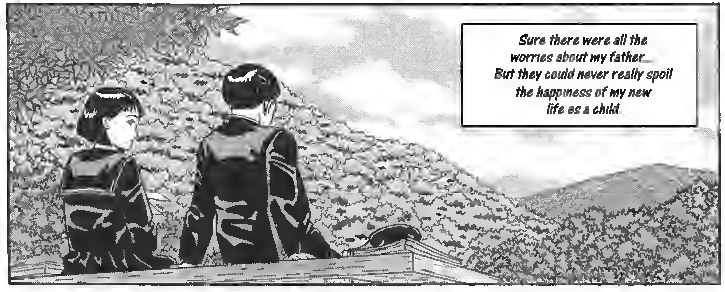

AND YOU TOMOKO? HOW DID YOU DO?
BAH
I HAD PROBLEMS TOO I'M NOT GOOD AT PHYSICS


YES! I'M REALLY LUCKY YOU KNOW...
TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU


IT'S CAUSE I HAVE A TOUGH PROF THAT CATCHES EVERY LITTLE MISTAKE!
BUT THE ENGLISH ORAL I THINK I GOT A PERFECT MARK!


REALLY? I WAS A LITTLE HELPFUL TO YOU THEN?


With Tomoko, I so easily forget that I'm 4½ years old...


Sure there were all the worries about my father... But they could never really spoil the happiness of my new life as a child.


June... Exams were over.
In the air you could already feel
the coming of summer.
I UNDERSTAND MR YAMAZAKI...
BUT IF YOU WANT MY ADVICE
中原洋服店
WHY DON'T YOU TRY A DARKER COLOUR FOR ONCE?
THIS MATERIAL IS WELL MADE LOOK AT THE WEAVING PATTERN
THAT'S VERY TRUE
YOU'VE CONVINCED ME! I'LL TAKE THAT ONE THEN.
AND
I HAVE KEPT YOUR MEASUREMENTS
IF THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE THE LAST TIME
WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DELIVER IT TO ME?


I'LL GET IT READY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
HELLO
PERFECT I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT
AH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH MY DEAR
HOW ARE YOU? YOU ALWAYS SEEM SO BUSY!
BUSINESS GOES AS YOU WANT IT TO GO, WE SAY!
YOU THINK SO?
I'M ALWAYS ON THE MOVE BUT THAT'S A LOT OF AGITATION FOR NOTHING
HELLO!
EVERYONE EXCEPT PITIFUL PEOPLE LIKE ME TAKES A VACATION
HA! HA! HA!
HIROSHI
AND YOUR NEXT TRIP WHERE WILL IT TAKE YOU THIS TIME?
TO TOKYO
WOW!
THAT'S NOT RIGHT NEXT DOOR IS IT!


My father works a lot too...
HAH!
HAH!
FFH!
From time to time, he goes away...
For a while... In order to make a delivery to a client...
HELLO!
Sometimes, he would stay a little longer to take measurements of a new patron
A few minutes, no more...
No. My dad couldn't possibly have a mistress...
When would he see her?


PSCHH
DAD! DINNER'S READY!
SCHHH
I'LL FINISH THIS THEN I'LL COME
YOU CAN START WITHOUT ME
AAAH
I'M SO HUNGRY!
WE'RE ALMOST DONE
YOSHIO
YOUR FISH IS ALREADY COLD I CAN REHEAT IT FOR YOU IF YOU WANT
NO IT'S VERY GOOD LIKE THIS.
BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO REHEAT THE MISO SOUP FOR ME!
HAAA!
WELL I'M STUFFED!
YOU'VE ALREADY FINISHED, KYOKO?

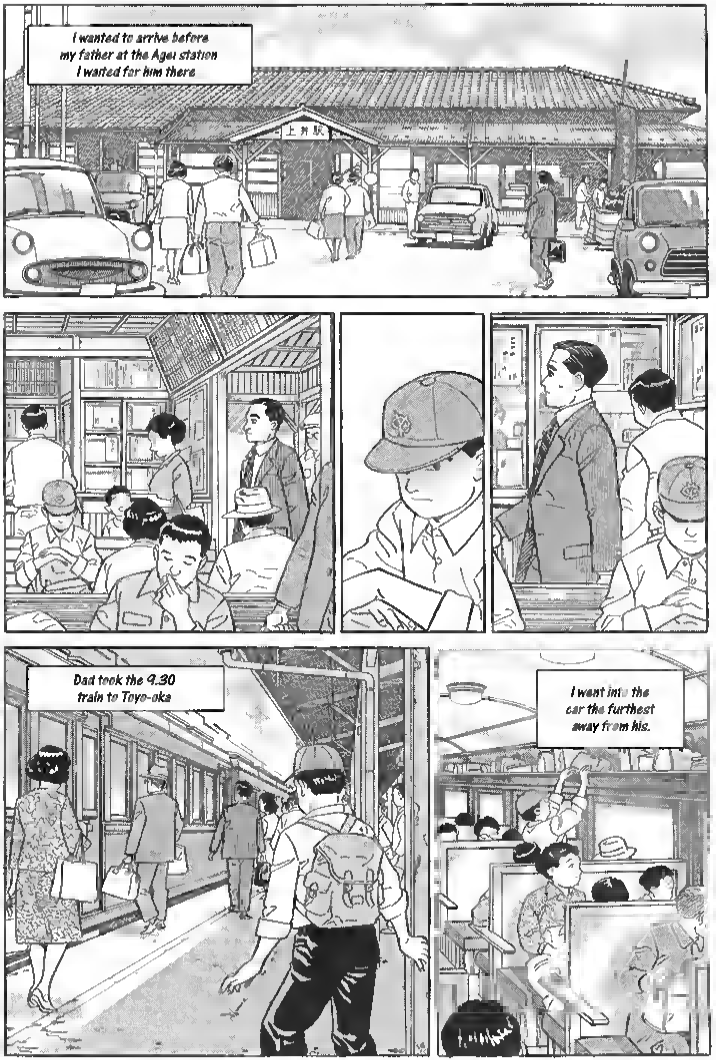

I HAVE HOMEWORK TO DO!
WHAT'S THIS? THIS IS NEW! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WELL...
TOMORROW IS SUNDAY AND
...YOKO AND ME ASKED HER MOM IF WE COULD GO ON A TRIP TO THE POND IN TOGO
SPEAKING OF WHICH, ME TOO TOMORROW I HAVE TO GO OUT TO TOTTORI
SO AT NOON...
I'LL BE EATING THERE
BUT WILL YOU BE COMING HOME FOR DINNER?
YES, I THINK SO
IF I'M LATE I'LL CALL YOU
YOU'RE GETTING MORE CLIENTS IN TOTTORI
NO?
...THE PAST FEW TIMES, YOU'VE GONE THERE AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH.
AS OFTEN AS THAT?
THEY'RE NOT REALLY NEW CLIENTS MOST ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS



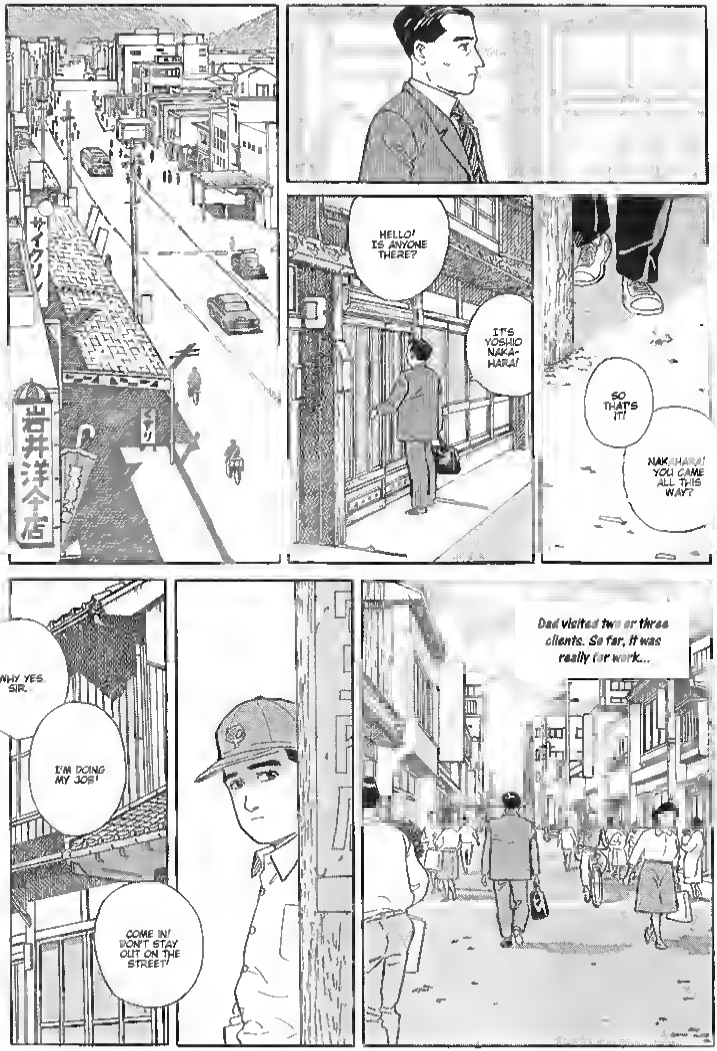
* BUDDIST FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD CELEBRATED EVERY 13 14 AND 15 OF AUGUST

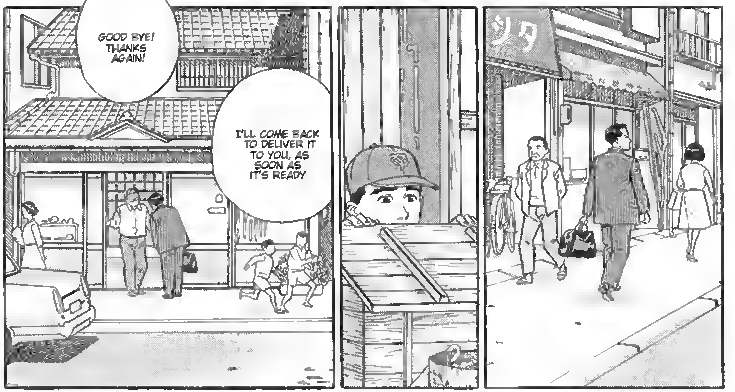

HA! HA! HA! HA!
SO YOU SEE? YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO GO THERE ALONE!
NOOO! THAT'S NOT IT!
I WANT TO GO WITH HIROSHI. THAT'S ALL!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
As always, Dad, Mom and my grandmother are perfectly carefree.
数学 2
STANDARD
ONE...
TWO
THREE...
I SAVED UP QUITE A BIT AFTER ALL
WITH 1000 YEN, SHOULD I GO THEN?


HIROSHI?
YOU'RE GOING OUT? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ERR...
I'M MEETING DAISUKE
AT EIGHT THIRTY IN THE MORNING?
SO EARLY?
YES... I...I'M GOING TO EAT LUNCH AT HIS HOUSE... DON'T WAIT FOR ME...
ALRIGHT ...
ANYWAYS, TRY NOT TO BE TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER AT THE SHIMADA'S...
I KNOW QUITE WELL THAT THE EXAMS ARE OVER
BUT IT'S NOT A REASON TO BE MONKEYING AROUND OUTSIDE ALL DAY!
YES YES, I KNOW!
YOU'LL BE BACK FOR DINNER, OK?
OK!


I wanted to arrive before my father at the Agei station I waited for him there
Dad took the 9.30 train to Toyo-oka
I went into the car the furthest away from his.


I... Yes... I felt remorseful...
TCHO TCHO TCHO
I didn't have a calm conscience, as if I was doing something bad.
Around a half hour later, we arrived at Tottori station.


サイクリング
岩井洋介店
HELLO! IS ANYONE THERE?
IT'S YOSHIO NAKAHARA!
SO THAT'S IT!
NAKAHARA! YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY?
WHY YES SIR.
I'M DOING MY JOB!
COME IN! DON'T STAY OUT ON THE STREET!
Dad visited two or three clients. So far, it was really for work...


GOOD BYE! THANKS AGAIN!
I'LL COME BACK TO DELIVER IT TO YOU, AS SOON AS IT'S READY
ソタ


HELLO!
GIVE ME TWO APPLES AND SOME BANANAS PLEASE
BUT OF COURSE SIR I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE THEM!




央総合病院
THE HOSPITAL ?

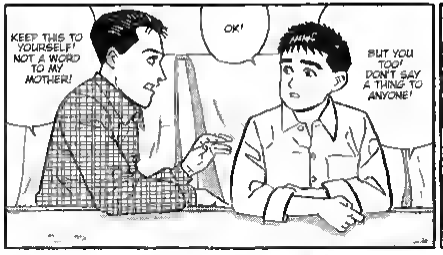

TOC TOC
IT'S YOSHIO!
AH ENTER QUICK!
北・205
大沢民子
TAMIKO OSAWA ...?
REALLY YOSHIO
YOU ARE TOO NICE TO ME
HOW ARE YOU MY DEAR?
DO YOU FEEL BETTER?

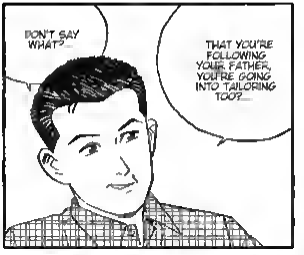

I'M OKAY
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S LYING DOWN ALMOST ALL DAY
IT'S NORMAL
IT'S NOT A SMALL OPERATION THAT YOU HAD YOU KNOW!
THESE LAST FEW DAYS I STILL TRIED TO MOVE A LITTLE I TOOK A FEW STEPS AROUND THE ROOM
SEE! YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG!
I ADMIRE YOU A LOT TAMIKO YOU HAVE SUCH COURAGE
YOU'LL GET OUT OF THIS
AND FASTER THAN YOU BELIEVE, I KNOW IT!
I
I
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO APOLOGIZE YOSHIO
HUUH...
YOU ?
APOLOGIZE?
BUT FOR WHAT BY GOD?
YOU'RE SICK I COME TO SEE YOU, THAT'S ALL!
BUT YOU ARE SO NICE TO ME
I'M AFRAID THAT I DON'T KNOW I MIGHT CAUSE YOU PROBLEMS


WHO COULD SAY ANYTHING TO ME? I'M IN TOTTORI FOR WORK
...AND PASSING BY I CAME TO SEE YOU, IT'S NOTHING
DON'T WORRY YOURSELF FOR NOTHING! YOU HAVE OTHER MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...
THINK OF YOURSELF! THINK OF HEALING YOURSELF!
THERE, TAKE A FRUIT!
THANK YOU YOSHIO
!!
SURPRISE !!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
DA. DAISUKE!
SHHH!
AND YOU?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?


MY FATHER... HE HAS JUST BEEN HOSPITALIZED
BECAUSE OF HIS LIVER. HE HAS A REAL PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL, I THINK...


YOU KNOW, MY PARENTS DON'T LIVE TOGETHER ANYMORE
BUT ME, I STILL COME TO SEE HIM OFTEN ENOUGH HE GIVES ME POCKET MONEY
OH RIGHT...


KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF! NOT A WORD TO MY MOTHER!
OK!
BUT YOU TOO! DON'T SAY A THING TO ANYONE!


DON'T SAY WHAT?...
THAT YOU'RE FOLLOWING YOUR FATHER, YOU'RE GOING INTO TAILORING TOO?...


...LIKE A PRIVATE DETECTIVE?
STOP!
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE FUNNY


FINE. TELL ME EVERY-THING...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PATIENT IN ROOM 206?


NOTHING AT ALL
I'VE SEEN HER TWO OR THREE TIMES IN THE HALLWAY
I FIND HER REALLY PRETTY
MY FATHER, HE HEARS THINGS
HE HEARD THAT
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY ANYWHERE IT SEEMS THAT NO ONE EVER COMES TO VISIT HER
EXCEPT FOR YOUR DAD APPARENTLY
WHAT'S MORE DAD ALSO SAID THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE
WHAT? HE'S SURE?
SHE ALWAYS SEEMS SO MELANCHOLIC
NO HE SAYS THAT IT MUST BE LIKE THAT YOU SEE


THERE! THAT'S ALL
IT'S JUST SOME DRUNK BLABBERING AND HALLWAYS RUMORS...
IT NOT HIROSHI!
YOUR FATHER, YOU WON'T MAKE ME BELIEVE FOR ONE SECOND THAT HE HAS ANOTHER WOMAN IN HIS LIFE!
YOU MUST NOT CONFUSE EVERYTHING! YOUR FATHER, IT'S NOT A PISTOL LIKE MINE!
FLAP
WELL TAMIKO
I HAVE TO GO

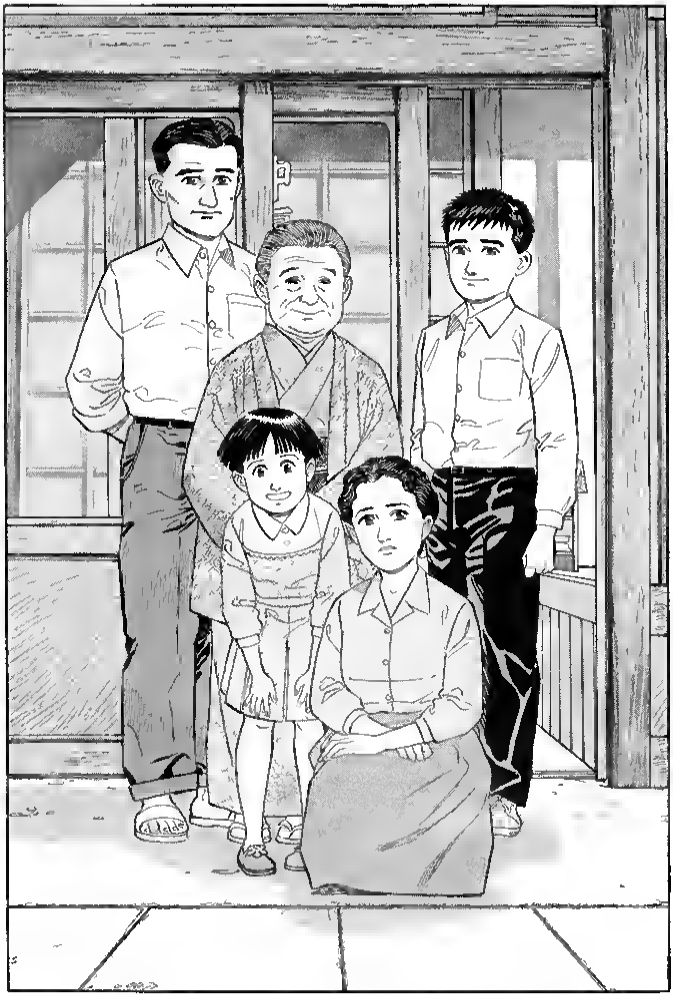

ALREADY? YOU'RE LEAVING SO EARLY TODAY
YES
I STILL HAVE ONE OR TWO CLIENTS TO VISIT I'LL COME BACK
TILL THEN, PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF!
I PROMISE
THANK YOU YOSHIO
CLAC
YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO PLAY DETECTIVE?
I'LL LEAVE IT. I'M ALL TIRED OUT
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO HIROSHI?


I HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FATHER
ALRIGHT! WE'LL GO BACK TOGETHER THEN? WAIT TWO SECONDS FOR ME HERE
OK. I WON'T GO ANY-WHERE
AND WE'LL EAT TOGETHER AT NOON! I'M INVITING YOU!!
Tamiko Osawa
What is there exactly, between you and my father?


!!
...
WELL THEN, TELL ME...
WOULD YOU BE...
...HIROSHI?

Chapter 4

A Happy Family




HIROSHI...
IS IT YOU?
ERR...
YES.
THIS IS AMAZING...
YOUR RESEMBLANCE WITH YOUR FATHER.
PICTURES OF YOU I SAW THEM, YOU KNOW YOUR FATHER SHOWED THEM TO ME
I RECOGNIZED YOU IMMEDIATELY!
BUT STILL! FATHER AND SON YOU LOOK THAT MUCH ALIKE ?
THIS IS LIKE I'M SEEING YOU FATHER WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL
UH...
YOU...
WHO ARE YOU?


BY PURE CHANCE?
REALLY? SO, YOU WERE HERE...
FATE SURE DOES THINGS IN STYLE
I'M THRILLED TO SEE YOU, RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
YOU HAVE A LITTLE SISTER RIGHT?
WHAT WAS HER NAME, AGAIN? KYOKO...?
I'D LIKE TO SEE HER TOO, SOMEDAY...
TCHIK
CURRENTLY SHE'S IN PRIMARY SCHOOL...
IN THE 5TH GRADE, I BELIEVE...
YES
APPLE?
IT'S A GIFT FROM YOUR FATHER IT WON'T EAT YOU, TAKE ONE!
UHH...
MA'AM...


I...
I WANT TO ASK A QUESTION, BUT...
HMM?
UHH...
MY FATHER... UM... AND YOU... UH...
I ALMOST FORGOT TO TELL YOU
POC
I...I'M ALL ALONE, YOU SEE...
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN...
MY FAMILY... MY FRIENDS... EVERYONE CLOSE TO ME DIED BECAUSE OF WAR...
YOSHIO
YOUR FATHER...
HE VISITS ME, BECAUSE I ASKED HIM TO


WHEN I WAS STILL HEALTHY, I WASN'T TROUBLED BY THIS...
BUT WHEN I BEGAN TO COUGH UP BLOOD I WAS TRANSPORTED HERE.
THERE WAS NO ONE NO ONE TO VISIT ME...
I WAS SO SAD...
SO, WHEN THE DOCTOR INFORMED ME...
THAT I NEEDED TO HAVE AN OPERATION. THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.
I SENT A LETTER TO YOSHIO...
YOU KNOW, WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
WE WERE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOURS. WE ALWAYS PLAYED TOGETHER.
I ONLY THOUGHT OF MYSELF. IT NEVER CAME TO ME THAT THIS COULD CAUSE TROUBLE TO YOUR FAMILY


I ONLY THOUGHT...
BEFORE I DIED, I WANTED TO SEE YOSHIO ONCE MORE...
...WHEN WE WERE SMALL,
I TOLD MYSELF, THAT IN THE FUTURE, I WANTED TO LIVE WITH HIM, TO BE HIS BRIDE...
SO, I...
...I WROTE THAT LETTER WITHOUT THINKING...
I'M SORRY
I'VE CAUSED YOU TROUBLE
N, NO...
NOT AT ALL...


FORGIVE ME...
YOUR FATHER...
I'M GOING TO TELL HIM NOT TO COME SEE ME ANYMORE...
AH!
NO! IT IT'S NOT THAT...
I UNDER-STAND IT PER-FECTLY
HE HAS TO COME!
HIROSHI
YOU...
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEART. ONE DAY, YOU WILL DEFINITELY BECOME A GREAT PERSON
HIROSHI...
YES?
COME A BIT CLOSER...
HUH?


CLOSER...
A BIT MORE...
FORGIVE ME...


All the sadness...
All the loneliness of the world was in her hug...
A woman in tears...
Her thin chest pressed up against mine...
God, was it painful!
TRULY...
FORGIVE ME...
Gently, I held her in my arms...
POF


K-I-
AH! THERE YOU ARE!
ERR...
YES! YES! DON'T WORRY
I HAD A FEELING YOU WOULD BE HERE!
I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
HMM...
YOU WON'T TELL MY FATHER THAT I WAS HERE, WILL YOU?
OF COURSE NOT!
BUT ON ONE CONDITION. IF YOU HAVE THE DESIRE TO, VISIT ME AGAIN, ALRIGHT?
...YES...
GOOD-BYE
GOOD-BYE!



[Breaded pork-cutlets with fried eggs and onions, served on a bowl of rice.]


My investigation turned up nothing... I returned to Kurayoshi with Daisuke
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT?
HAHA-HAHA!
JUST IMAGINE HE'S IN THE SAME TRAIN!
DON'T WORRY! WE'RE TOGETHER! WE CAN MAKE UP ANY EXCUSES!
WANT SOME JUICE?
THANKS
IT'S GREAT THAT WE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER
YOU HAVE TO STOP TORMENTING YOURSELF FOR NOTHING
HAVING A FATHER AND A MOTHER HAPPY TOGETHER SURE HELPS...
COMPARED TO MY FAMILY...
—YOURS IS A GIFT, BELIEVE ME!


TRU!
RU!
TRU!
IT'S STILL EARLY
DAISUKE
YOU WANT TO COME TO MY HOUSE?
HEH HEH, YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING?
MISTER NEEDS AN ALIBI, AND I AM THIS SORRY GUY!
HA! HA! YOU COULD SAY THAT
I'M NOT IN A HURRY. I'LL GO WITH YOU
IT'S GOING TO BE THE FIRST TIME I'LL COME TO YOUR HOUSE!
BUT LISTEN HERE!
NOT ONE WORD ABOUT TOTTORI! NOR YOU, NOR ME EVER WENT THERE!
IT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE IT, BUT I KNOW WHEN TO HOLD MY TONGUE!


YES WELL...
TOMOKO IT WAS YOU WHO WENT AND TOLD EVERYONE I TOOK HER TO THE MOVIES!
HM?
TOMOKO WHO?
COME ON-! YOU SHOULD THANK ME!
THANKS TO ME, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER OPENLY! YOU CAN BE PROUD OF YOUR PRETTY GIRLFRIEND!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! ISN'T THERE A PRETTY GIRL AT YOUR PLACE, TOO?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I NEED TO PAY HER A VISIT. SHE INVITED ME.
YEAH!! AND THEN I'LL FIND YOU DRUNK AGAIN
HA! HA! HA!
R R R
MOM?
COME IN! DON'T STAND HERE LIKE THAT!
YES, YES!


WHO IS IT?
OH!
HIROSHI'S BROUGHT US A FRIEND OF HIS...
THIS IS DAISUKE
NICE TO MEET YOU, MADAMES!
HELLO
ARE YOU THE DAISUKE FROM THE OTHER NIGHT?
EXCUSE ME?
HIROSHI HAS CAUSED YOU TROUBLE. I'M REALLY VERY SORRY.
OH THAT!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HA! HA!
GOTTA MENTION THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE JUST ONE GLASS, HEH!


HM?
DAISUKEEE!!!
I'M GONNA SHOW YOU MY ROOM!
GLIH!
SSHH
GAH!
IT'S THE FIRST FLOOR!
THIS WAY!
BOM BOM
AH. I'LL BE GOING UP, THEN.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME
HAVE FUN!
ARE YOU CRAZY OR WHAT?
SO THIS IS HOW YOU KNOW WHEN TO HOLD YOUR TONGUE?
THAT STORY, IF THERE'S ONE PERSON IN THE ENTIRE WORLD WHO MUSTN'T KNOW, IT IS MY MOM!
SAY, YOU HID IT FROM ME...


YOUR MOM... SHE'S REALLY PRETTY!
GOOD BLOOD! YOU LUCKY DEVIL, YOU!
This is always nice to hear...
YOU THINK SO...?
OF COURSE! AND IT'S THERE THAT YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
WITH A WIFE LIKE THIS, WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR FATHER WOULD COMPLICATE HIS LIFE BY SEEING ANOTHER WOMAN?
BOM BOM
HIROSHI!
AH!
YOU'VE BEEN HERE ALL ALONG!
NO... I JUST GOT HERE
I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME SNACKS...


AH, SO YOU HAVE A LITTLE SISTER?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU I'M KYOKO NAKAHARA.
HEY! YOU'RE VERY POLITE.
WELL, I'M DAISUKE SHIMADA.
DAISUKE.
YOU'RE VERY CUTE!
YES! YES! I LIKE YOU A LOT!
EH!?
KYOKO! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL! AT LEAST YOU'RE STRAIGHT-FORWARD!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD SUCCESS WITH SUCH A CUTE LITTLE GIRL!
KYOKO!! THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH NONSENSE! GO DOWN-STAIRS NOW!
IS THAT TRUE?? DO YOU THINK I'M PRETTY?
OF COURSE! AND WHEN YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT OLDER, AND AS PRETTY AS YOUR MOM.
I PROMISE I'LL BE THINKING OF YOU!


HMPH!
BOM
BOOM
BOOM
SHE PROBABLY TOOK IT SERIOUSLY!
DAISUKE! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT! SHE'S REALLY SLOW-MINDED
HA! HA! HA!
STOP COMPLAINING! AT LEAST THERE'S SOME KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT AT YOUR HOUSE!
HMM?
YOU HAVE YOUR SISTER, YOUR GRANDMOTHER...
THIS IS WHAT I CALL A REAL FAMILY!
HAAA
LOOK AT ME... I LIVE WITH MY MOTHER...
MY WORTHLESS FATHER IS OCCUPIED WITH ANOTHER WOMAN IN TOTTORI
HE DRANK SO MUCH THAT HE FOUND A WAY TO ENTER THE HOSPITAL ONE MORE TIME


THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE! HE MUST'VE BEEN CURSED WHEN HE WAS BORN!
HEH, HE'S SO STUPID SOMETIMES
...THAT IT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY!
MUNCH
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN MENTIONED TOMOKO!
HIROSHI, MY FRIEND, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE!
HELLO, EVERYONE!
IT'S DADDY!!
DID YOU BUY ME A PRESENT?
YOU'RE BACK EARLY!
WELL! IS THAT YOU, YOSHIO?
KYOKO I'M NOT GOING TO BUY YOU A PRESENT EVERYTIME!

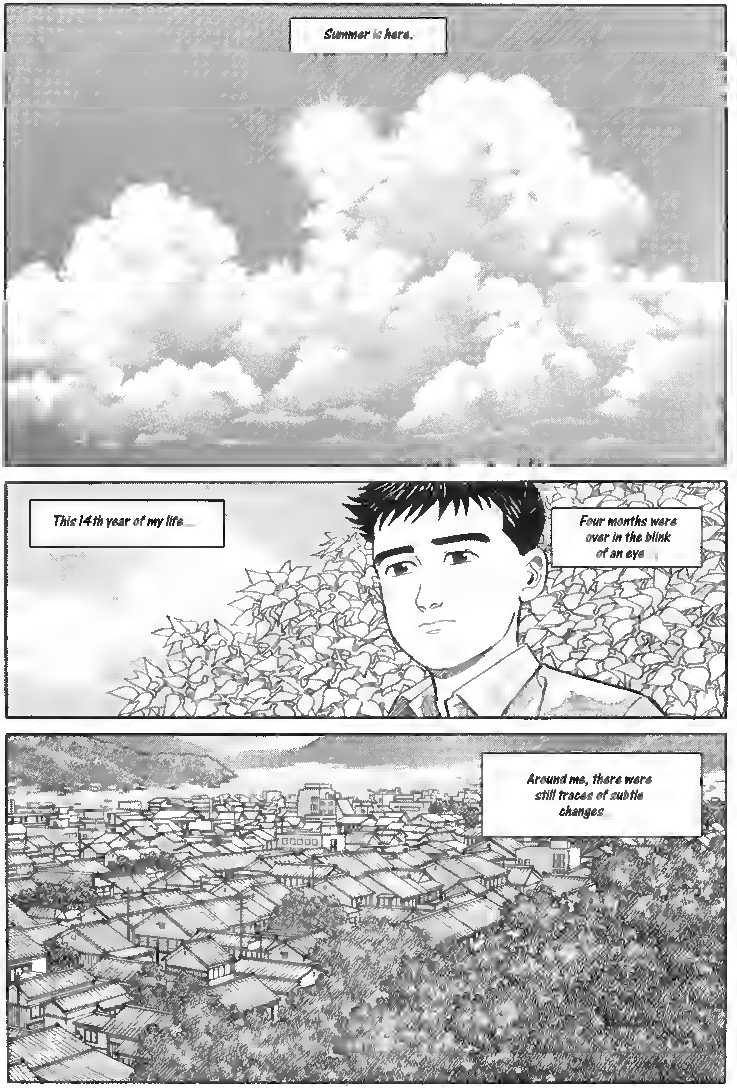

AH!
YOUR FATHER'S BACK.
GLGL
DAISUKE
MY FATHER
THE THING IS, HE'S GOING TO DISSAPPEAR.
WHAT?
I SEE YOU COMING WITH YOUR CRAPPY PREMONITIONS!
OOOH, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BRING THIS BACK UP, DO YOU?
...
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.
HARDLY TWO MONTHS.
HEY! HEY! HIROSHI! LET'S STOP THIS NONSENSE, WAKE UP!
HE'S GOING TO DISAPPEAR, AND I STILL CAN'T FIND OUT WHY.


WHAT? YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT YOU GOT DRUNK WITH CALPIS?
THE "TIME TRAVELS", THE "COBRA TWIST", THEY'RE FUNNY ONLY ONCE!
BUT TWICE, IT'S GETTING SINISTER! SO PLEASE
COME BACK TO THE REALITY
A non-alcoholic drink with milk/yogurt
FIRST OF ALL,
NOBODY, YOU HEAR ME, NOBODY WOULD LEAVE A FAMILY LIKE YOURS!
HIROSHI? YOU, ARE YOU LISTENING?
Daisuke, he's right... My family looks so happy... And what if, with this second chance...
...time takes a different path from the one of the "past"?

Chapter 5

A Summer's Scene

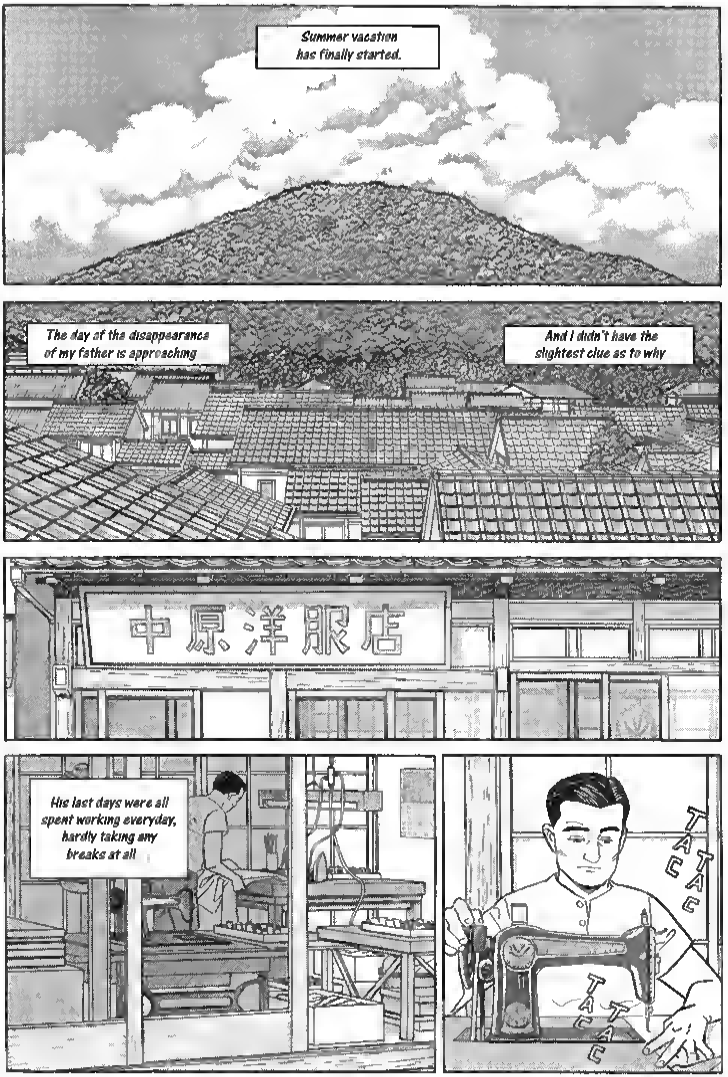



Summer is here.
This 14th year of my life...
Four months were over in the blink of an eye...
Around me, there were still traces of subtle changes...


NAKAHARA!
AH!
OTA-SENSEI!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ACHIEVED SOME MIRACLES?
YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER, KANO-SENSEI, TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR RECENT EXPLOITS
ESPECIALLY IN ENGLISH
HE SAID THAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED BETTER GRADES ON YOUR LAST END-OF-TERM EXAM. IS THIS TRUE?
I BELIEVE SO
YOU WERE FAR FROM BEING AS MOTIVATED AS THIS IN YOUR FIRST YEAR WHEN I WAS YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER!
YOUR GRADES ARE BETTER IN ALL THE SUBJECTS
I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE SAME NAKAHARA!
A NAKAHARA WHO EVEN
TAKES GIRLS TO THE RESTAURANT?
UMM... I'M SORRY


BAH!
IT'S NOT A CRIME TO TRY AND GET CLOSER TO GIRLS! AND FOR YOU IT COULD BE A GOOD STIMULUS A MOTIVATION.
TOMOKO NAGASE SHE'S NOT A BAD STUDENT HERSELF!
YOU'VE CHOSEN WELL
AH!
LOOK!
SHE'S OVER THERE!
YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S WAITING FOR YOU!
HIROSHI
WAS HE LECTURING YOU AGAIN?
NO...
HE WAS JUST CONGRATULATING ME ON MY GOOD GRADES
BUT EVEN WHEN HE'S CONGRATULATING YOU, IT ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BEING GIVEN A ROASTING


SUMMER VACATION IS ALMOST HERE...
ARE YOU GOING ANYWHERE?
NO.
I'M JUST GOING TO VISIT THE SEA WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER AS USUAL...
WE ARE GOING TO THE BEACH AT HAWAII
IT'S THE CLOSEST PLACE FROM HERE
THE SEA YOU'RE LUCKY!
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
YOU CAN COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT! WELL, MY BROTHER'S GOING TO BE THERE TOO BUT...
REALLY? I WOULD LOVE TO
SHALL WE GO THEN?
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM, TOMOKO?
YUP...
I KNOW THE BREAST-STROKE
AND YOU?
ME?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN IN THE WATER...


Summer vacation has finally started.
The day of the disappearance of my father is approaching
And I didn't have the slightest clue as to why
中原洋服店
His last days were all spent working everyday, hardly taking any breaks at all
TAC
TAC
TAC


YOSHIO.
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO WORK ALL DAY TODAY?
EH, YES.
I HAVE AN ORDER I NEED TO HAND OVER TOMORROW TO YAMAMATSU-SAN.
I HAVE TO FINISH THIS TONIGHT
LATELY, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING EVERY NIGHT.
WHY
WON'T YOU TAKE ANY BREAKS? WITH ALL THIS HEAT LATELY
IT'S NOT LIKE I'D DIE!
NO BUT YOU MIGHT GET SICK.
LISTEN, THINGS SHOULD BE A BIT EASIER IN A MONTH
SO, WE'LL SEE IF I CAN TAKE A BREAK BY THEN
MY HEALTH ISN'T WHAT'S WORRYING ME WHAT TROUBLES ME.
IS THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO FATHER'S "BON" FEAST
SLURP


WAHHH ?!?
OH NOOO!
I WANT TO GO!
SACHI AND MISA HAVE BOTH ALREADY BEEN TO THE BEACH 3 TIMES THIS YEAR!!
AND ME I'VE NEVER BEEEEN!
YOU'LL BE GOING IN MANY YEARS TO COME
YOUR FATHER IS SWAMPED WITH WORK RIGHT NOW
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MOM?
YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT I HAVE TO HELP YOUR FATHER... I CAN'T GO EITHER
HIROSHI
YOU, YOU'RE FREE CAN YOU GO WITH HER?
WHAT?
ME?? OH NO, I CAN'T
I ALREADY AGREED TO GO TO THE SEA WITH DAISUKE...
DAISUKE SHIMADA?
WHEN ARE YOU GUYS LEAVING?
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT? YOU NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!


THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW TO THE BEACH OF HAWAII
AH GOOD THERE!
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR SISTER!
I WANNA GOOOO!!!
WHEREVER DAISUKE GOES I GO TOO!!!
NO WAY!
YOU'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE!
IT WOULD BE NICE TO TAKE A VACATION.
HAWAII ISN'T FAR FROM HERE
WHAT?!?
MOM, TOO?!
KAZUE, WHY DON'T YOU GO TOO?
FINE! I UNDER-STAND!
I'LL TAKE YOU YOU PAIN IN THE NECK!
HUFF HUFF
I GET TO GO!!!
THE SEA!
YAAAAY!!! THE SEA!!


GOOD.
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
WON'T YOU WANT ANY TEA?
ALREADY?
I'LL DRINK IT AT THE WORKSHOP!
Why was my dad so occupied?
He worked nonstop until late at night, like he was being hurried by something...
I already knew why... Dad had the intention of leaving us.
But he wanted to finish his work. Before that day... before the 31st of August.


タクシーのりば
HAH!
HRH!
HRH!
HAH!
HRH!
HAH!
HAH!
HRH!
HAH!
HRH!
HAH!
HRH!
HAH!
ARE WE LATE?
A BIT.
HAH!
HAH!
IT'S HER FAULT. SHE SLOWED ME DOWN!
KYOKO THE SLOW POKE
HRH!
HAH!
HRH!
OH!
YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
I'M...
TOMOKO NAGASE

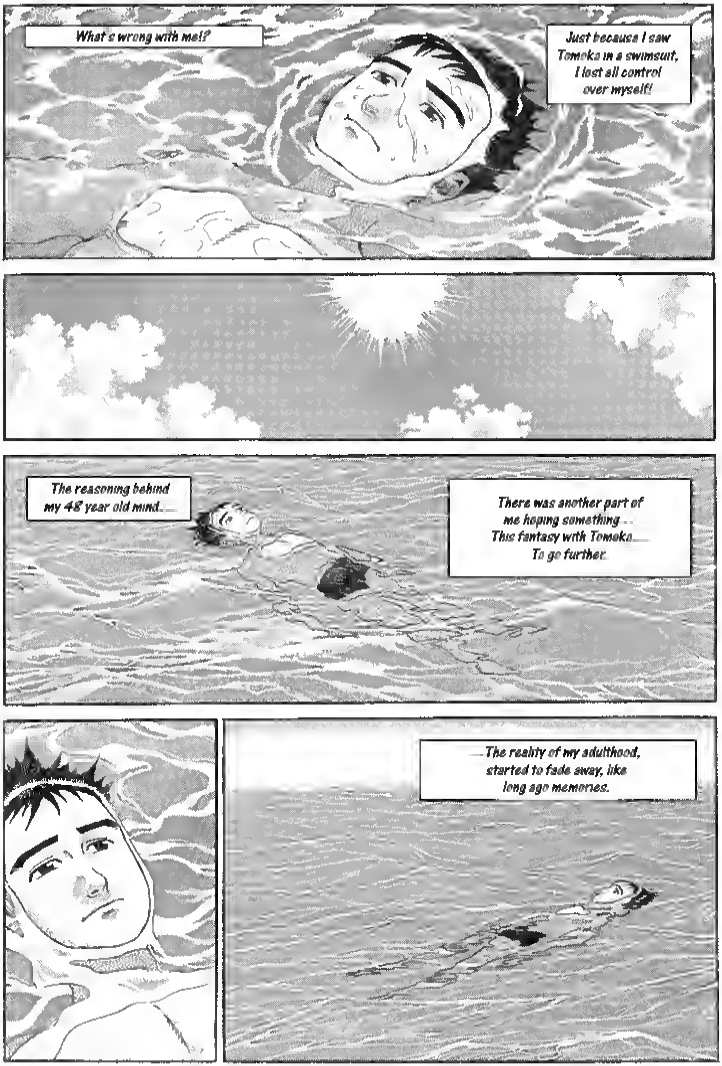

MY BROTHER, AKIHIKO
HE'S IN SECOND YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL... YOU'LL BE GOOD FRIENDS
YUP
AND UH...
DAISUKE? WHERE IS HE?
AH
AH YES! DAISUKE
HE TOLD ME HE COULDN'T COME AT THE LAST MINUTE
DAISUKE? YOU INVITED HIM?
WHY?
NO AH WELL IT'S A LITTLE STORY BETWEEN US.
I'LL EXPLAIN TO YOU LATER
AAAHH OK!
I UNDER-STAAAAAND!
HIROSHI, YOU LIED!!!
STOP EXAGGERATING YOU!!
IF YOU BRING THAT UP AGAIN, I'LL LEAVE YOU AT HOME NEXT TIME!
HEH! HEH! HEHEHE
HIROSHI!
LOOK IT'S THE BUS!

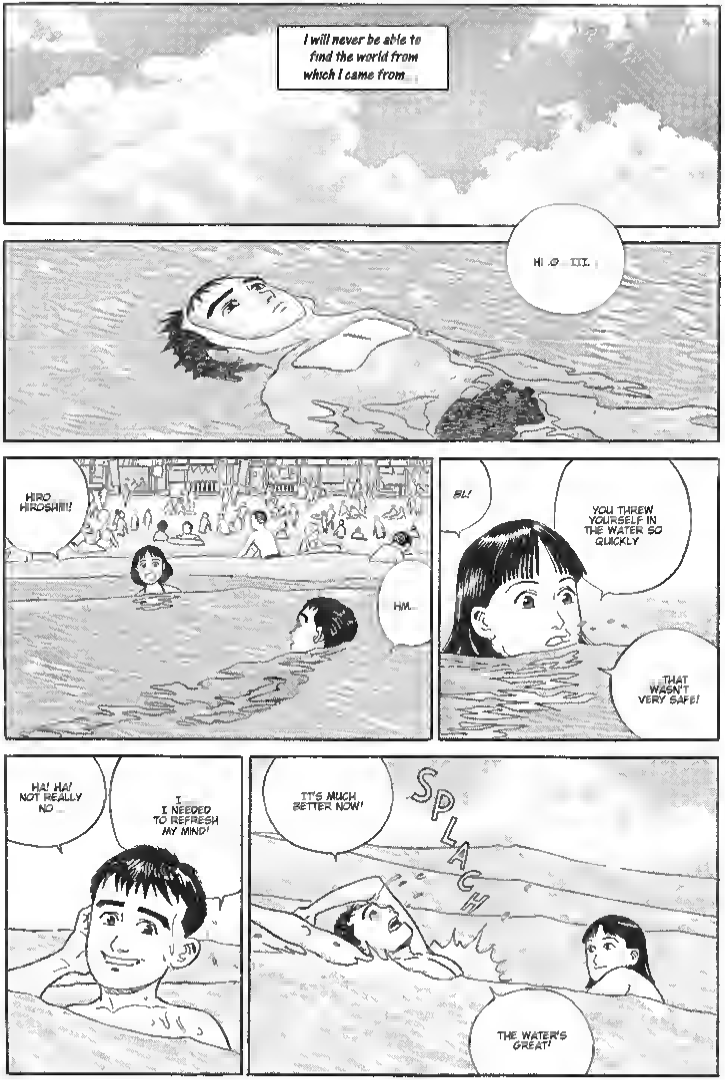

The beach of Hawaii was a twenty minutes bus ride from the city.
SHHHHS
SHH
It was a gently sloped beach always filled with people, mostly locals.
COME ON AKIJIKO!
HURRY! LET'S GO!
DO YOU HAVE YOUR FLOATIES?
YUP!
PFU
IYA! OUCH!
EEK!


OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
KYOKOOO! REMEMBER TO STRETCH BEFORE GOING IN THE WATER!
YESSS !!!
ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
HAH! HAH! HAH! HAH!
HIROSHI, ARE WE GOING TO SWIM TOO?
I'LL GO PUT ON MY SWIMSUIT. I'LL BE BACK...
OK I'LL WAIT FOR YOU!
THOSE TWO...
THEY LISTEN TO US MORE THAN THEY DO THEIR PARENTS!


♪♪
UMMM... THIS IS
IT'S A NEW SWIMSUIT. I GOT IT THIS YEAR
THIS.
THIS YEAR?
IT'S. NICE.
ALL NEW...

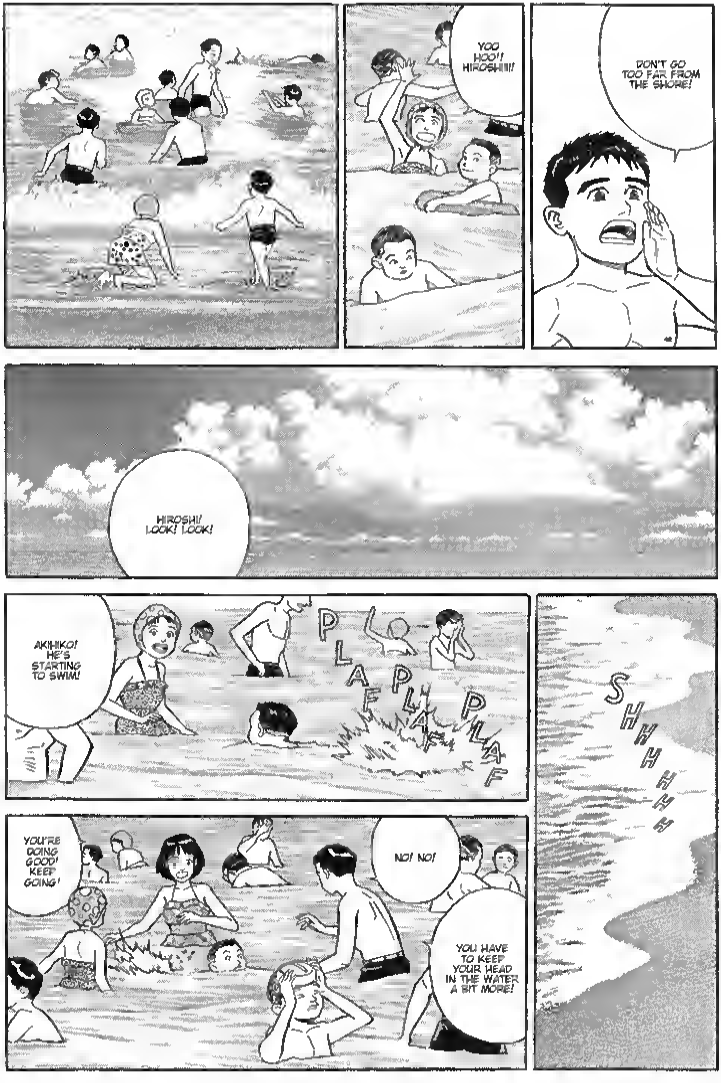

WAHHHH!!!
PLAF
PLAF
PLAF
PLAF
HIROSHI
?
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
HIROSHI
GLGL
HUAH!


What's wrong with me!?
Just because I saw Tomoka in a swimsuit, I lost all control over myself!
The reasoning behind my 48 year old mind....
There was another part of me hoping something... This fantasy with Tomoka.... To go further.
....The reality of my adulthood, started to fade away, like long ago memories.


I will never be able to find the world from which I came from...
HI...
HIRO HIROSHI!!!
HM...
EL!
YOU THREW YOURSELF IN THE WATER SO QUICKLY
THAT WASN'T VERY SAFE!
HA! HA! NOT REALLY NO...
I... I NEEDED TO REFRESH MY MIND!
IT'S MUCH BETTER NOW!
SPLASH
THE WATER'S GREAT!


HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST SWAM IN THE SEA...?
I FOR ONE LOVE THE SEA! I COME HERE MANY TIMES A YEAR!
COME ON, LET'S SWIM! I'M GOING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS!
COME ON, TOMOKO!
YOU WANNA RACE?
PLAF
HEY! I WASN'T READY!
PLAF
PLAF
YOU CHEATER!
I swam, swam until I had no breath left.


I spent this day, as best as I could
I was unbelievably joyous of being able to relive the period of my adolescence to its fullest
The Hiroshi in the past never had a summer like this.
I was so thrilled.
The Happiness blinded me.


YOO HOO!! HIROSHI!!!
DON'T GO TOO FAR FROM THE SHORE!
HIROSHI!! LOOK! LOOK!
AKIHIKO! HE'S STARTING TO SWIM!
PLO-PLAFLAFLAF
SHHHHHH
YOU'RE DOING GOOD! KEEP GOING!
NO! NO!
YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR HEAD IN THE WATER A BIT MORE!


PFF
I'M DEAD TIRED
ME TOO
THANKS HIROSHI
IT WAS REALLY PLEASANT WE HAD A LOT OF FUN!
WE'LL HAVE TO COME BACK SOME-DAY!
AH!!!
IT'S DAISUKE!
DAISU KEEEE!
AH WELL! HELLO KYOKO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS PART OF THE TOWN?
I WAS AT THE TOTORI HOSPITAL
AND YOU? RETURNING FROM THE BEACH? YOU'RE SO LUCKY!
HIROSHI, I'M GOING TO GO NOW
THE LITTLE ONE'S GETTING SLEEPY AND
AH OK...


GOOD BYE!
SEE YA!
UNTIL NEXT TIME AKIMIKO!
HM!
I GET THE IMPRESSION SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME VERY MUCH. THAT TOMOKO. AM I RIGHT?
MAYBE!
ANY-WAYS, HIROSHI
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
HM?
HIRO-SHI
YOU!!
YOU CAN GO HOME. WE'RE NOT TALKING TO YOU!
HMPH!
IT'S THIS WOMAN IN THE HOSPITAL...
THEY SAY THAT SHE'S DYING... SHE'S LOST CONSCIOUSNESS... SHE DOESN'T HAVE VERY LONG TO LIVE...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...?


MOM! I'M HOME!
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY?
YUJI WHERE'S DAD?
HE HAD TO GO TO TOTTORI
URGENT BUSINESS
I was paralysed

Chapter 6

I'm Waiting For My Father




That night, I wondered if my father would return from the new trip to Tottori or not. But, finally...
中原洋服店
Zzzz
Zzzzzz
RRRR
YOSHIO! HERE YOU ARE FINALLY
He came back late at night
SORRY
YOU SURE CAME HOME LATE TODAY
SO? HOW IS SHE DOING?
Huuuu
UNFORTUNATELY SHE DIED EARLIER TONIGHT
Zzzzr

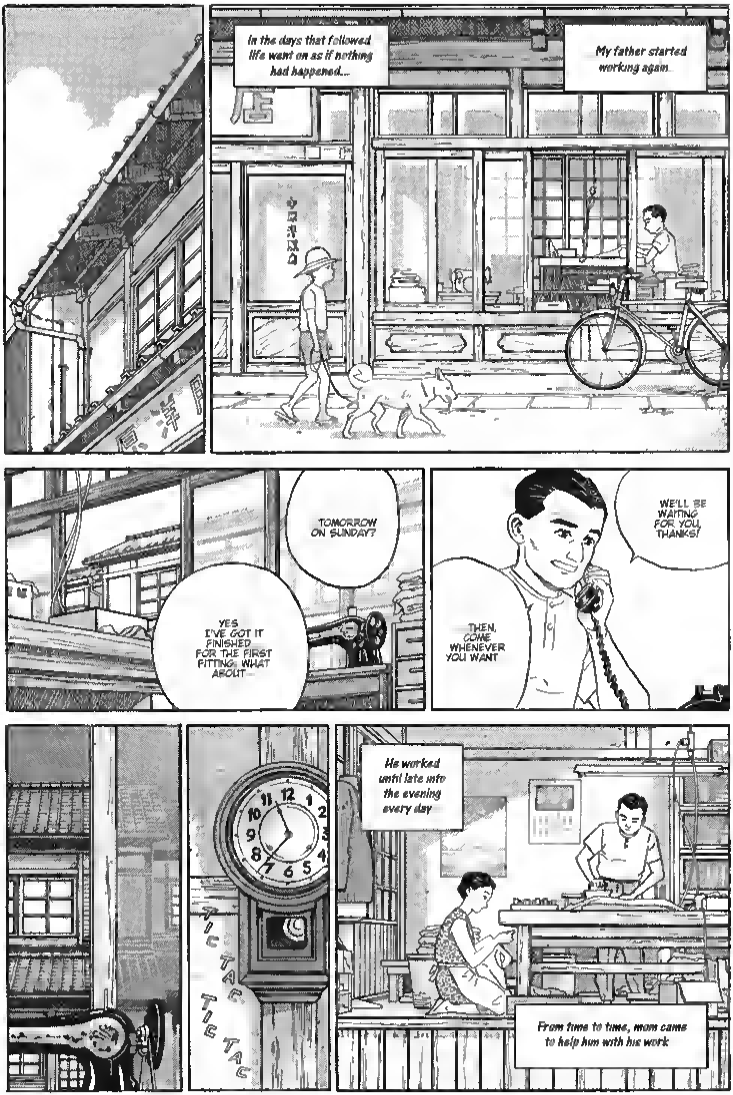

I WENT THERE AS FAST AS I COULD BUT SHE WAS ALREADY LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS WHEN I ARRIVED...
STILL I THINK SHE RECOGNIZED ME...
I'M SURE OF IT...
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT YOU MANAGED TO SEE HER BEFORE...
TAMIKO...
...SHE FELT ALONE FOR WAY TOO LONG...
THE FUNERAL CEREMONY
WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT GETTING PROPER CLOTHES
CAN YOU HANDLE IT PLEASE?
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT SHE HAS NO RELATIVES NOBODY WHO'LL ATTEND THE CEREMONY WHAT A SHAME
I HAVE TO GO KAZUE I'LL PROBABLY BE THE ONLY ONE THERE...
AT LEAST TAMIKO WON'T BE ALL ALONE AT THE END...


FORGIVE ME
KYOKO HAS BEEN FOR A LONG TIME...
THE DAY THEY SPENT AT THE BEACH EXHAUSTED HER...
THE CHILDREN? ARE THEY SLEEPING??
AND HIROSHI?
I DON'T KNOW... HE WAS STILL UP NOT SO LONG AGO...
WELL
...CAN YOU PREPARE ME SOMETHING TO EAT? ...AND I NEED A GOOD BEER TOO...
I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO EAT


HIROSHI...
ARE YOU AWAKE?
YES?
TAMIKO OSAWA
YOU KNOW HER, DON'T YOU?
YES...
SHE WAS JUST DIED...
AH...
YOU HEARD US
DAISUKE'S FATHER WAS AT THE HOSPITAL, AND...
IT WAS BY CHANCE
...THAT'S GOOD THAT YOU COULD HAVE MET HER... SHE WAS HAPPY... SHE HAD TEARS IN HER EYES WHEN SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU...
I KNOW TAMIKO EXPLAINED IT TO ME SHE ALSO TOLD ME YOU ASKED HER NOT TO TALK ABOUT THIS TO ME...
I NOW REGRET THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW KYOKO TOO
THAT'S A PITY
NNNN
NNNN


DAD
I
HM?
WHAT?
I WONDERED...
ARE YOU HAPPY?
WHAT?
WHAT A STRANGE QUESTION!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
ANSWER ME!
WELL... YES...
I'M HAPPY, AM I NOT?
THE WHOLE FAMILY IS DOING WELL...
...FOR ME, THAT'S THE GREATEST HAPPINESS THERE COULD BE.
DAISUKE TOLD ME THAT TOO...
YOU HAVE A HAPPY FAMILY...
SO HAPPY... THAT THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOUR FATHER TO ABANDON IT AND DISAPPEAR.


HIROSHI
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DAI-SUKE'S FAMILY
HIS FATHER IS GONE HE ABANDONED THEM
AAAH
I DIDN'T KNOW
HIROSHI HOW FAST YOU'VE GROWN UP THESE DAYS YOU SEEM TO HAVE BECOME MORE MATURE
IT RELIEVES ME
I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT BUT SINCE YOU STARTED YOUR SECOND SCHOOL YEAR, I'VE GOT THE FEELING THAT
DAD
THAT ONE CAN TRUST YOU!
DAD
YOU, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE US RIGHT?
WHAT COULD HAVE PUT SUCH A SILLY IDEA IN YOUR MIND?
YOSHIOOO! DINNER'S READY!
HIROSHI
I'M COMING!


In the days that followed life went on as if nothing had happened...
My father started working again.
TOMORROW ON SUNDAY?
YES I'VE GOT IT FINISHED FOR THE FIRST FITTING. WHAT ABOUT...
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, THANKS!
THEN, COME WHENEVER YOU WANT
TIC TAC TIC TAC
He worked until late into the evening every day
From time to time, mom came to help him with his work


1963
7月
8月
The day of the disappearance was coming closer.
One day, I seriously thought about telling mom about it...
Whatever... I knew she wouldn't believe me.
HIROSHI!
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE ME TO THE BEACH AGAIN?
WHAT?
WE MUST HURRY! THE WAVES WILL SOON BE TOO STRONG THEN WE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO SWIM ANYMORE!
THE WAVES? I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT THAT!

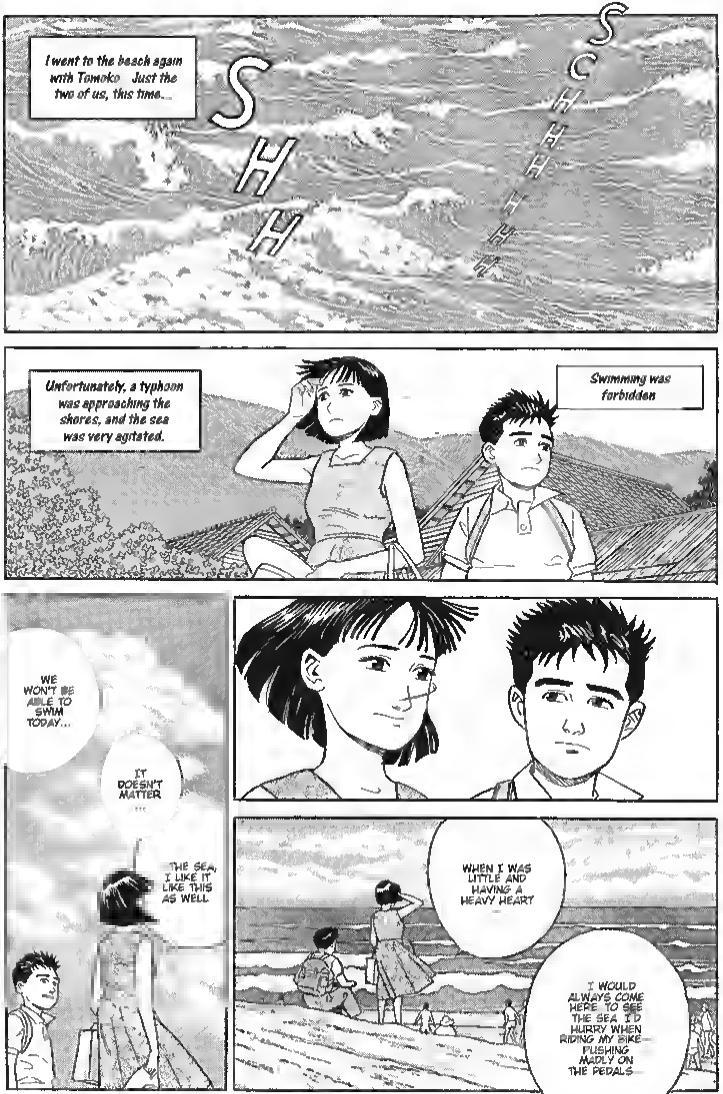

THIS TIME GO ON YOUR OWN! JUST ASK MOM!
YOU WON'T GO TO THE SEA WITH DAISUKE ANYMORE?
NO! WE WON'T! NO TIME! WE'RE STUDENTS, NOT BRUTE WHO ONLY THINK OF HAVING FUN!
KYOKO
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO? NO HOLIDAY HOMEWORK?
I DO IT LITTLE BY LITTLE
SNIFF
OOOH! YOU CAN WHINE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT I DON'T CARE!
I DON'T KNOW WHY FOR SOME TIME NOW YOU'VE NOT STOPPED SHOUTING AT ME
SNIFF
YOU WERE KINDER BEFORE
HIC
HIC
KYOKO

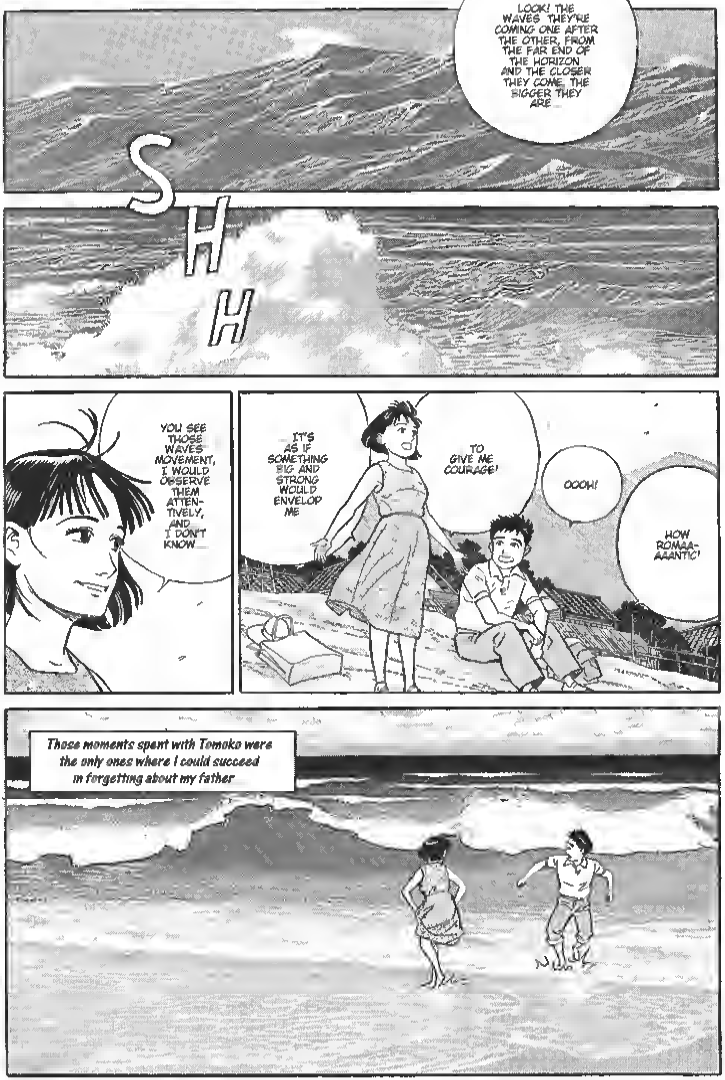

The upcoming disappearance of my father haunts me... I can't stop thinking about it...
"Where are you going? I'm going to school"
"Are you going anywhere?"
"Yes, I'm going to the library"
DO YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "WHERE" AND "ANYWHERE"? BEWARE OF MIXING THEM UP
YES, ALL RIGHT...
THAT WOULD BE—
"WHERE" AND "SOMEWHERE" SORRY... THAT SOUNDS A BIT WEIRD...
NOT AT ALL!
YOU'RE VERY CLEAR... YOU REALLY HAVE A GIFT FOR TEACHING!
HAHA!
GO ON, MAKE FUN OF ME!


TOMOKO?
A LITTLE TREAT WITH SOME WATERMELONS HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
IT'S RIGHT FROM THE FRIDGE!
HERE!
AAH! THANKS!
EAT SOME WHILE IT'S STILL COLD
THANKS MOM!
YUM!
MM-M!
YEP
FRESH LIKE THIS IT'S DELICIOUS
THANKS TO YOU, HIROSHI, TOMOKO HAS MUCH BETTER GRADES IN ENGLISH NOW
SHE CAN'T STOP TELLING ME ABOUT IT!
THAT'S
...SHE'S THE ONE WHO WORKS HARD...
MM-M!
RIGHT?
THANKS!
BUT NOW WE'RE A BIT EMBARRASSED
TOMOKO CONVINCED HERSELF TO GO STUDY ABROAD IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH HER HIGH SCHOOL—
THERE HAVE TO BE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOLS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THEM, RIGHT?
YES—



*. UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA
**. INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY


I went to the beach again with Tomoko Just the two of us, this time...
SHH
SCHHHHHHHH
Unfortunately, a typhoon was approaching the shores, and the sea was very agitated.
Swimming was forbidden
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SWIM TODAY...
IT DOESN'T MATTER...
THE SEA, I LIKE IT LIKE THIS AS WELL
WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND HAVING A HEAVY HEART...
I WOULD ALWAYS COME HERE TO SEE THE SEA I'D HURRY WHEN RIDING MY BIKE PUSHING MADLY ON THE PEDALS


LOOK! THE WAVES THEY'RE COMING ONE AFTER THE OTHER, FROM THE FAR END OF THE HORIZON AND THE CLOSER THEY COME, THE BIGGER THEY ARE...
SHH
YOU SEE THOSE WAVES' MOVEMENT, I WOULD OBSERVE THEM ATTENTIVELY, AND... I DON'T KNOW...
IT'S AS IF SOMETHING BIG AND STRONG WOULD ENVELOP ME
TO GIVE ME COURAGE!
OOOH!
HOW ROMAA-AAANTIC!
These moments spent with Tomoko were the only ones where I could succeed in forgetting about my father


BO BOM
This is how my new childhood's days were passing _inexorably_
At the end of the summer holidays, fireworks would be shot from the river Kogame's banks.
SPLASH
RAA-AAH!
YOU'RE NOT VERY DEXTEROUS, KYOKO!
BUT, IT TEARS UP SO EAAASILY!


HEHE!
LET ME TRY
GOLD-FISHES, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THEM!
OKAY, BUT YOU HAVE TO CATCH A LOT FOR ME THEN!
THERE'S A SECRET IN ORDER TO CATCH THEM
LOOK CLOSELY AT WHAT I'M DOING
PLOC
AH!
HE GOT IT!!!!
AAAH!
AGAIN, DADDY! AGAIN!!!
WHAT? TWO FISHES AT ONCE?
PLOC
WOAH!
AH! TORN UP...
DAMN, DAMN!
YOU GOT FIVE OF THEM!!!
THERE!
WITH THE ONES HIROSHI CAUGHT, THAT MAKES IT SEVEN IN TOTAL!!!
TREAT THEM WELL KYOKO...
YESSS!


HIUUUU
BAM
WOAH! HOW BEAUTIFUL!
BO BOM
BAM
WHAT A SHAME GRANNY COULDN'T COME WITH US...
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE ANYMORE YOU KNOW IT TOO WELL
HER LEGS CAN'T CARRY HER HERE ANYMORE...
AT LEAST SHE CAN STILL ENJOY IT FROM THE FIRST FLOOR ROOM...
YES...
I HOPE SHE CAN SEE THAT WELL...
Six days from now... Dad is going to disappear from our life...
THE GOLDFISH, I'M GONNA GIVE THEM TO GRANNY, AS A SOUVENIR!
WE'LL LOOK AFTER THEM TOGETHER!
DO WE HAVE A GOLDFISH BOWL?
BAH! A GOLDFISH BOWL OR SOMETHING ELSE WILL DO, RIGHT?


August the 31st
YOSHIOOO!
IT'S TIME! YOU HAVE TO GO!
AH!
WELL
I'M GONNA CHANGE
COULD YOU FINISH THE IRONING FOR ME?
SURE!
Finally, the day has come...
—Without my having found a single clue, the slightest hint of a way to hold my father back—


OKAY, I'LL BE GOING NOW!
This afternoon, dad had to go to a meeting organized by the neighborhood association, at the thermal station located near Miasa
DON'T FORGET MY PRESENT OKAY?!
DADDYYYY!
YOSHIO DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH!
R R R
SO?
YOU'RE ON A TRIP AGAIN?
I'M NOT GOING THAT FAR TO MIASA
In front of me, an ordinary father was going away...
HAVE A NICE DAY!
YOU TOO... BE CAREFUL.
洋服店
He was simply leaving, never to return
I was speechless.
かしわ屋



*"KON NICHI WA AKACHAN" BY MICHIYO AZUKA. A HIT OF THE SIXTIES

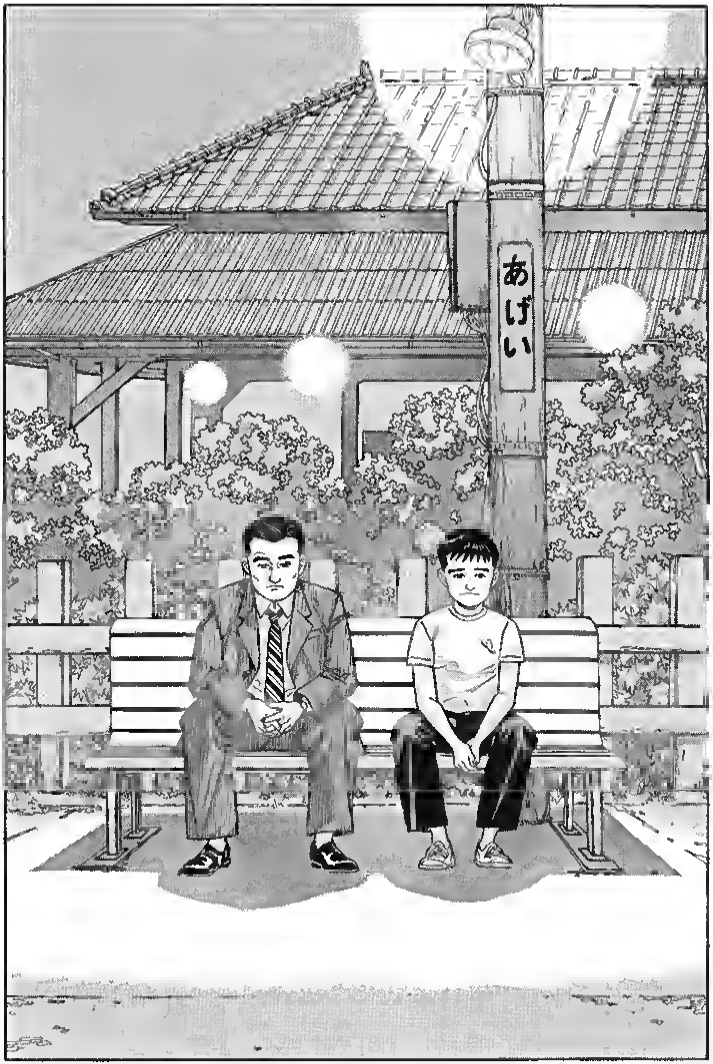

MOM!
YES?
♪ LA LA L! LAAA ♪
ERR
I...
WELL?
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU LOOK SO STRANGE!
SCHH
NOTHING...
I'M GOING TO GO OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE
I'M GOING TO DAISUKE'S
AT SUCH A TIME?
IT'S NEARLY 9 O'CLOCK YOU'RE GOING TO DISTURB THEM!
IT'S OKAY...
I'LL BORROW A FEW BOOKS FROM HIM.
HURRY THEN!
YOU'RE REALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
SCHHH

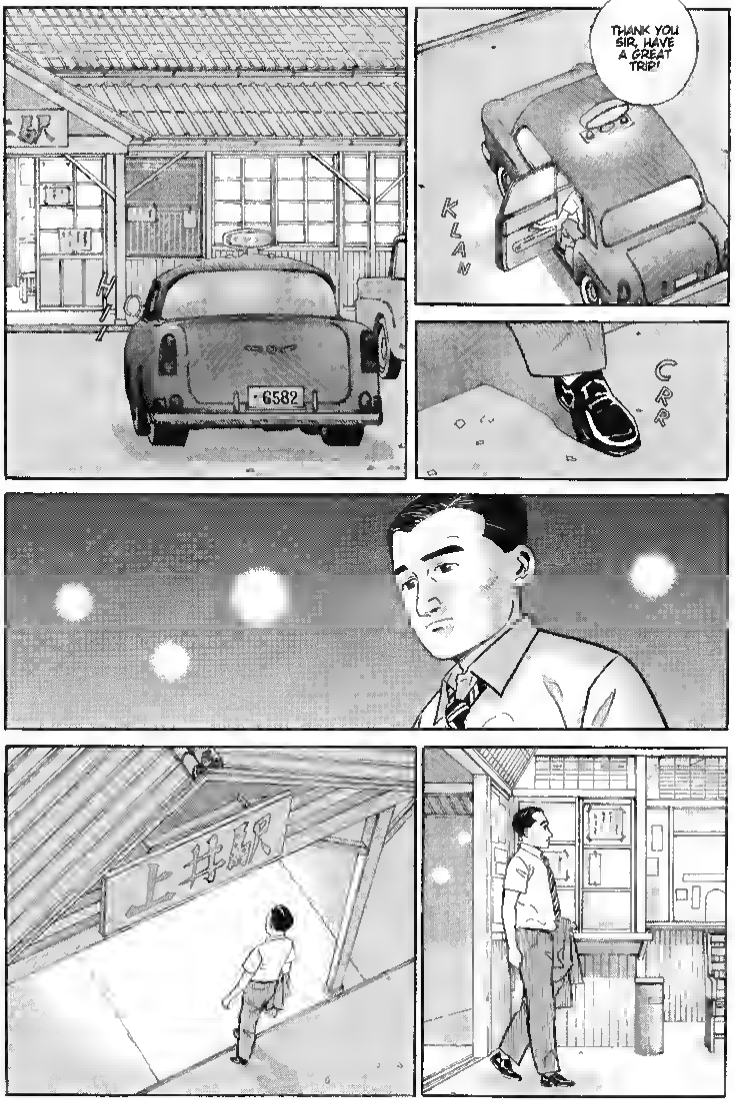

That evening... According to the conclusions of the police investigation.
...At 9:30 pm, after having left the people of the association, dad headed over to the Ageo train station
Around 10pm, he's said to have bought a one-way ticket to Tottori at the ticket counter...
Then, nothing—my father disappeared like that. We never heard news of him since then

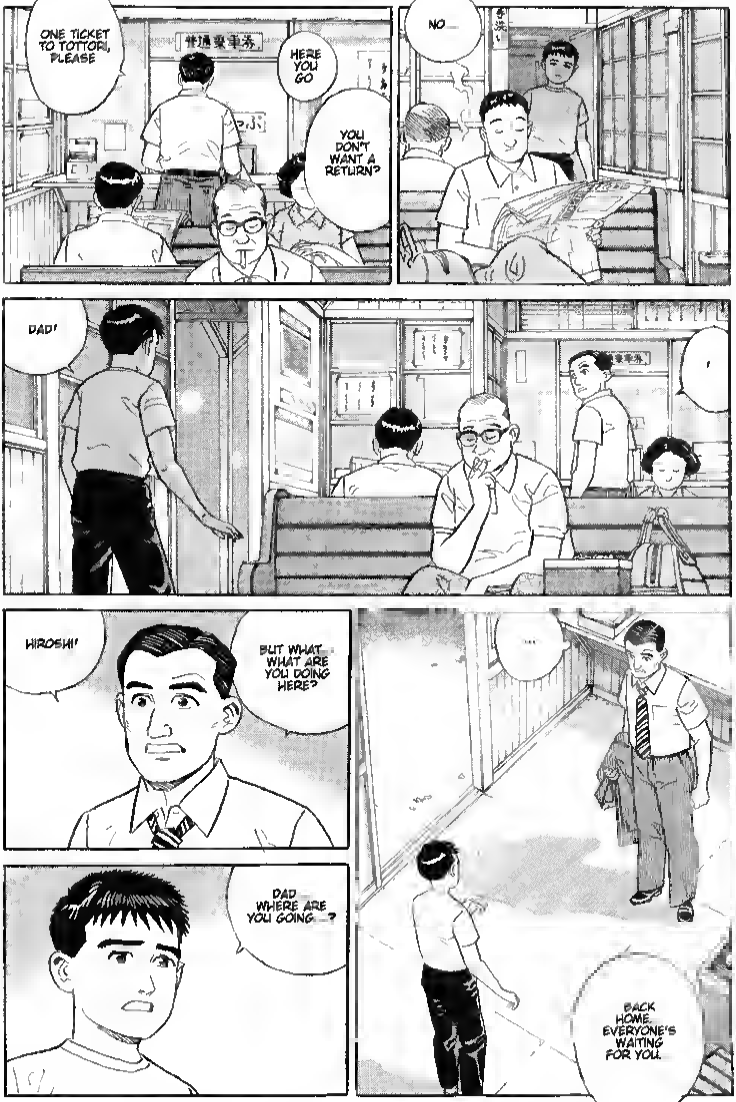

上井駅
HA!
HH!
HA!
To wait for my father at the Agei station... That was the only way, the last one...
I'M EARLY...
HALF AN HOUR LEFT
HA!
HA!
Would my father go through this door like he did before?
Or... in this other timeline, where unnoticeable changes had taken place, could the circumstances of his disappearance be different?
上井駅

Chapter 7

To Each His (Own) Truth




THANK YOU SIR, HAVE A GREAT TRIP!
KLAN
CPR
6582
上野駅

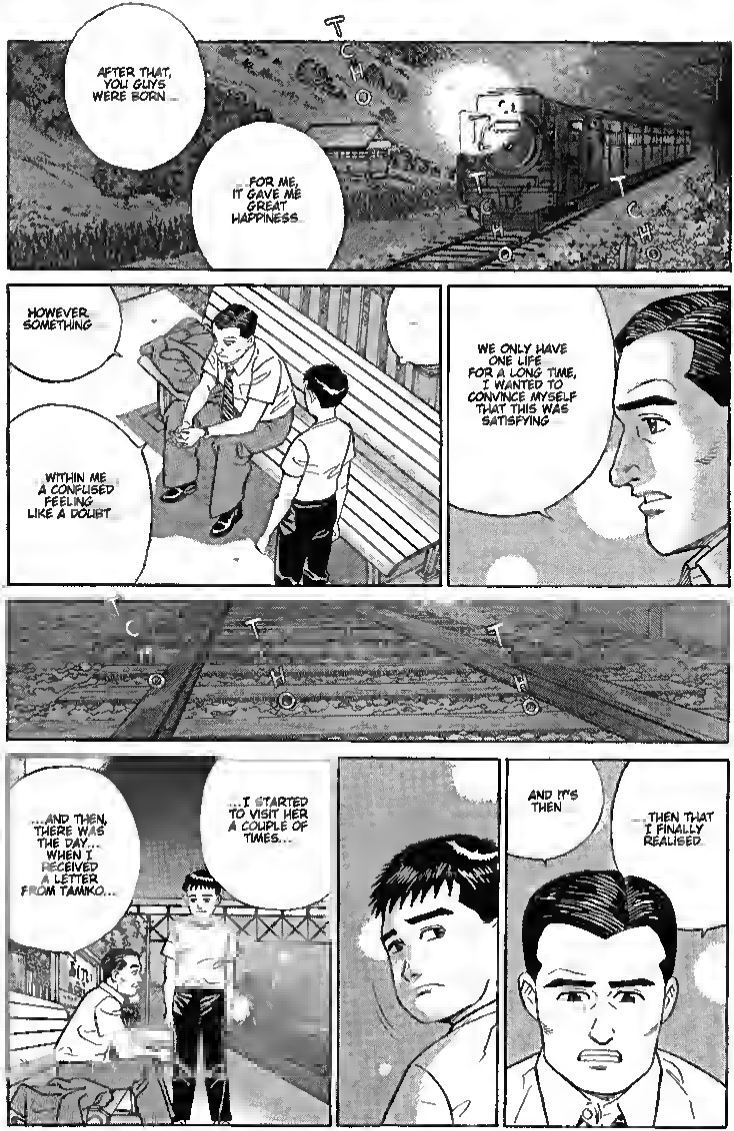

ONE TICKET TO TOTTORI, PLEASE
HERE YOU GO
YOU DON'T WANT A RETURN?
NO
DAD!
HIROSHI!
BUT WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DAD... WHERE ARE YOU GOING...?
BACK HOME. EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOU.


あげ
AGE
まつざき
MATSUZAKI
LEAVING LIKE THIS WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING...
IT'S HORRIBLE, I KNOW IT TOO...
BUT...
I CAN'T GO BACK
BUT WHY?!?
FOR WHAT REASON?
YOU'RE HAPPY, RIGHT? YOU TOLD ME SO YOURSELF!
SO WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?!?


AFTER YOU DISAPPEAR, CAN YOU IMAGINE THE PAIN THAT WILL BE INFLICTED ON MOM?!?
AND THE DIFFICULTIES THAT SHE WILL HAVE TO BEAR?!?
THE STORE, FOR ONE, SHE'D TRY VERY HARD TO TAKE CARE OF IT HERSELF
BUT WHAT COULD SHE DO? SHE FINALLY HAD TO CLOSE IT AND FIND ANOTHER JOB!
SHE WOULD NEVER WANT TO REMARRY! SHE'D WAIT FOR YOU!
AND KYOKO, SHE WOULD NEVER STOP CRYING. NO IT'S TOO HARD!
AND POOR GRANDMA. SHE LOST ALL HER STRENGTH AFTER YOU LEFT.
SHE WOULD STAY IN BED
ALL DAY LONG
HIROSHI...
COULD YOU LEAVE THE ONES YOU LOVE, LIKE THIS?!?
HOW CAN YOU BE THIS SELF-CENTERED!?


HIROSHI...
IS IT REALLY YOU...?
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT...
I... I...
I'M NO LONGER A CHILD!
THAT YOU AREN'T...
WHAT OTHER WAY COULD YOU SEE ME?
YOU'RE RIGHT, MY SON... FOR YOU, FOR ALL OF YOU, I'M NOTHING BUT A WORTHLESS FATHER...
HOWEVER... I WANTED TO EXPLAIN TO YOU...
TODAY... WHAT I AM, TODAY...
...I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE MYSELF... IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN... I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT WORDS, BUT...
IT'S LIKE I'M LIVING THE LIFE OF SOMEONE ELSE


I ASK MYSELF IF THERE WASN'T A DIFFERENT WAY OF LIFE FOR ME.
MY LIFE. ONE THAT I WOULD'VE REALLY
CHOSE
"CHOSE"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
ALL MY LIFE, RIGHT UP TO TODAY I'VE ALWAYS WENT WITH THE FLOW
I UNDER-STAND, NOW
WHEN I LEFT FOR OSAKA TO BE A TAILOR'S APPRENTICE, IT WASN'T BECAUSE I WANTED TO
I SIMPLY FOLLOWED THE SUGGESTIONS OF MY PARENTS, WHO WISHED THAT I WOULD RAPIDLY BECOME A MAN OF THE TRADE.
SHIMOHŌJŌ
BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES
A HEAP OF PROBLEMS STOPPED US FROM LEAVING KURAYOSHI.
I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY HERE.
WHEN I MET YOUR MOTHER, AFTER MY RETURN FROM THE WAR,

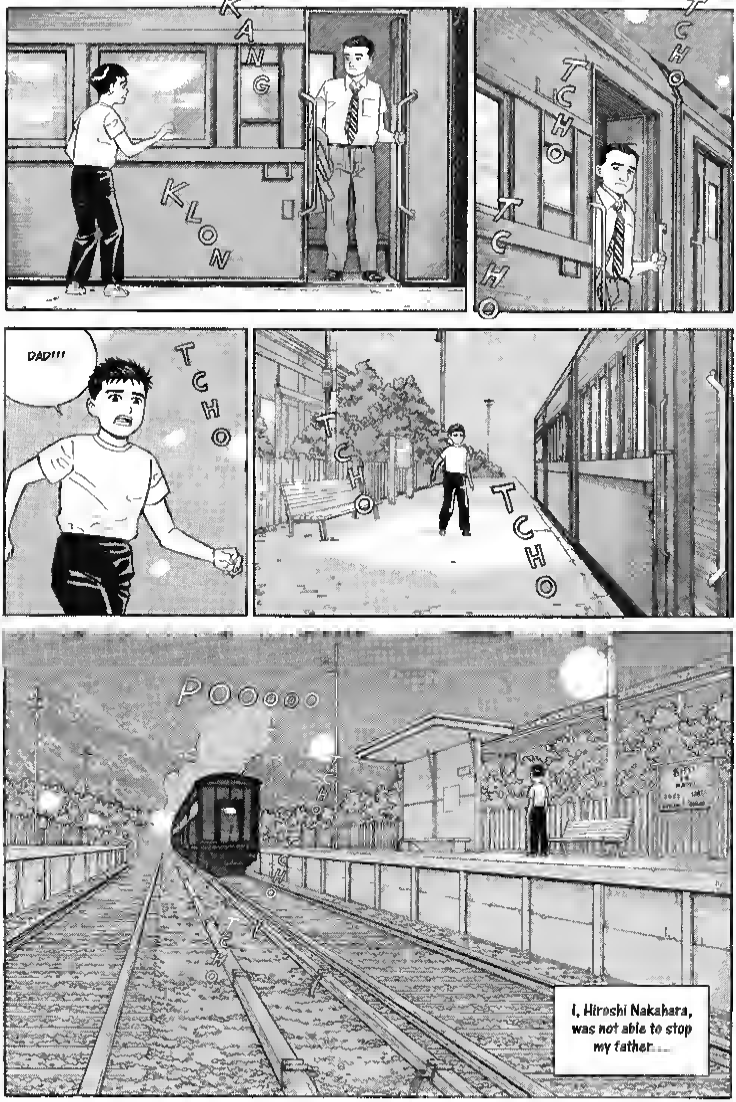

AFTER THAT, YOU GUYS WERE BORN...
...FOR ME, IT GAVE ME GREAT HAPPINESS...
TCHOO TCHOO
HOWEVER, SOMETHING...
WITHIN ME A CONFUSED FEELING LIKE A DOUBT...
WE ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE FOR A LONG TIME, I WANTED TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT THIS WAS SATISFYING...
TCHOO TCHOO
...AND THEN, THERE WAS THE DAY... WHEN I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM TAMIKO...
...I STARTED TO VISIT HER A COUPLE OF TIMES...
AND IT'S THEN...
...THEN THAT I FINALLY REALISED...

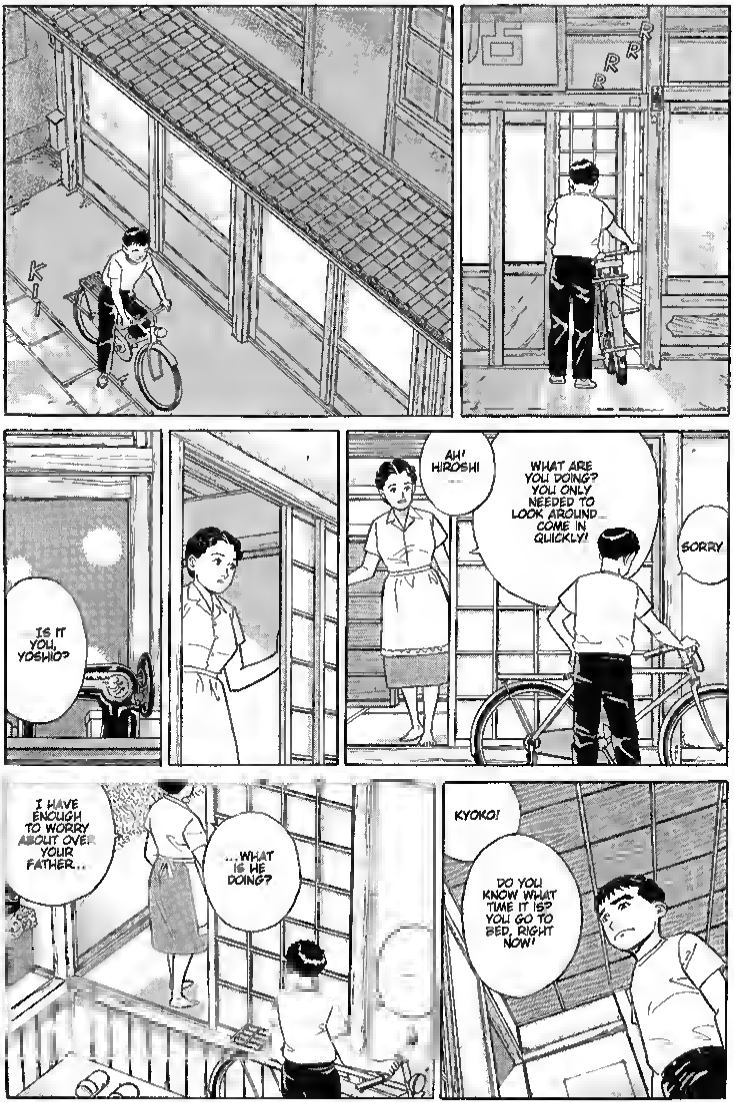

SHE NOT ONCE DID SHE COMPLAIN. NOT THE SLIGHTEST REMARK. NOT ONE REPROACH.
HOWEVER... HER AND I, WE KNEW...
SHE SIMPLY SAID, "THIS LIFE ISN'T WHAT I WOULD WANT..."
THERE.
THE LIFE OF TAMIKO...
IT WAS THE WAR THAT DECIDED IT.
TCHO
TCHO
TCHO
A LIFE WHERE SHE IS FORCED TO LIVE ALONE, FOR AND AGAINST EVERYTHING, UNTIL HER VERY LAST SIGH.
BUT DEEP INSIDE OF HER, I KNEW PERFECTLY WELL, WHAT SHE HAD DREAMED OF...
IF I HADN'T MET TAMIKO AGAIN, I WOULD STILL BE THERE, BEING CARRED BY THE FLOW OF LIFE...
BUT I DID MEET HER AGAIN. EVER SINCE THEN, NOTHING'S BEEN THE SAME
KYUU


SHHH...
KLON
DAD!
DON'T LEAVE!
I KNOW, HIROSHI. I KNOW THAT I'M ONLY THINKING OF MYSELF, BUT...
THERE'S STILL TIME. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I BELIEVE THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO START ANEW...
WILL YOU LET ME LEAVE?
IN THE FUTURE, WHEN YOU ARE MY AGE, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND A BIT
NO! I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS!
DRIII


RI ING
Immediately, the image of my perfect family appeared.
Today...am I not the same as this Father who fled?
Am I not going to forever forget my real family, as well?


In this other childhood, where the quirks of fate have projected me, I profit without any remorse the happiness to live a second life...
I too, am escaping
DRAWING
NO!
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOTHER.


KANG
KLON
TCHO
TCHO
TCHO
DAD!!!
TCHO
TCHO
TCHO
POOooo
I, Hiroshi Nakahara, was not able to stop my father...


IS IT YOU, YOSHIO?
AH! HIROSHI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU ONLY NEEDED TO LOOK AROUND... COME IN QUICKLY!
SORRY
I HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT OVER YOUR FATHER...
...WHAT IS HE DOING?
KYOKO!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS? YOU GO TO BED, RIGHT NOW!

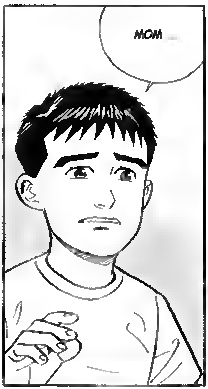

I'M WAITING FOR DADDY! I WANT MY PRESENT!
YOU DO KNOW THAT IT CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW?
Mom.... What will I say to her?
AS FOR ME, I'M GOING TO GO SLEEP.
GOOD NIGHT, MOTHER.
KYOKO, PLEASE!
NUUU! I WANT TO WAIT FOR A LITTLE LONGER!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
IT'S ALREADY 11PM!
SCHOOL WILL START AGAIN THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
IT WON'T BE POSSIBLE ANYMORE TO STAY UP LATE LIKE THAT ALL THE EVENINGS!
AND TOMORROW, I'LL BE WAKING YOU UP EARLY UNDERSTOOD?
IT'S NOT FAIR! DADDY PROMISED ME THAT HE WOULD HELP ME WITH MY SUMMER HOMEWOOOOORK!

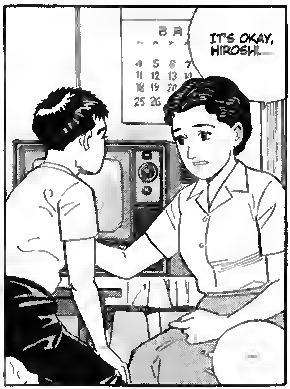

Mother....
She's still waiting....
He's not coming back.
1963
ZZZZ
RHHHR
OOOHH
How incompetent!
My own cowardice makes
me exasperated...
I think about the next couple of endless years,
when Mother will seriously suffer,
and I get scared.

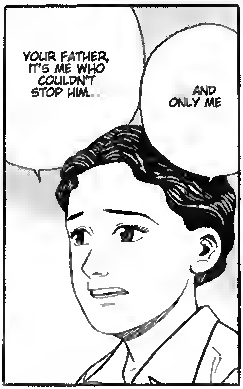

OH...? NO, THAT'S ODD...
YOU SAY HE LEFT A BIT BEFORE 10...?
NO, NO, HE NEVER RETURNED
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU THIS EARLY
YOSHIO...
WHAT IS HE DOING...?
HM?
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
MOM.
WHAT IS IT? YOU SHOULD BE SLEEPING!
I
I HAD MET DAD!


HOW?
WHERE DID YOU SEE HIM?
AT AGE1 STATION...
HE LEFT I... I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING
MOM...
I...
HIROSHI...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE WENT?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
HE JUST SAID... THAT HE'S NOT COMING BACK
LEFT?
I WANTED TO STOP HIM!!!! BUT...
MOM!


SO THIS IS IT...
...YOSHIO HE FINISHED BY...


MOM...


IT'S OKAY, HIROSHI...


YOUR FATHER, IT'S ME WHO COULDN'T STOP HIM...
AND ONLY ME


ONE DAY OR OTHER, IT HAD TO COME TO THIS...
I KNEW IT.


THE MOST SURPRISING THING, YOU SEE...
...IS THAT YOUR FATHER DIDN'T LEAVE EARLIER. THAT HE HAD THE PATIENCE TO WAIT ALL THIS TIME...


DEEP IN HIS HEART, I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT HE WANTED. IN SPITE OF THIS, I WANTED TO KEEP HIM HERE...
YOSHIO, PLEASE.
DON'T LEAVE SO SOON. WAIT FOR A LITTLE LONGER...
I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LEAVE MY MOTHER, ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE'S NOT SO WELL RIGHT NOW...
SO, IF YOU COULD
...BE PATIENT FOR A LITTLE LONGER? AT LEAST UNTIL SHE'S WELL ENOUGH TO LIVE BY HERSELF...


YOUR FATHER'S A GOOD MAN, YOU KNOW
FOR ME. FOR ALL OF US. HE WAITED
FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS...
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I WASN'T SAD, BUT
MOM.
IT'S WEIRD, YOU SEE I FEEL RELIEVED
THANK GOD, YOUR FATHER. HE WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO LIVE THE LIFE THAT HE ALWAYS WANTED
FOR ME. I STILL HAVE
YOU! AND I STILL HAVE KYOKO


The next morning
洋服店
WHERE'S DADDY?
HMM?
...things started to unravel almost exactly like in my memories...
HE'S NOT HERE?
EH NO, AS YOU SEE HE NEVER...
CAME BACK
HE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO
AND MY PRESENT, WHEN WILL I GET IT?
YOU WILL GET YOUR PRESENT, DON'T WORRY!
YOU CAN EVEN CHOOSE IT YOURSELF COME BUY GROCERIES WITH ME?
YEEE-AAAH!!!
THIS TIME, I'LL GET IT!


Classes have finally started...
GOOD EVERYONE'S HERE?
I'M HAPPY TO FIND YOU ALL IN GOOD HEALTH
I could've done nothing to prevent my father from leaving... I was filled with remorse...
THE TEMPERATURE STILL HASN'T GONE DOWN
...HOWEVER, WE HAVE WORK TO DO!
YOUR SUMMER HOMEWORK?
HAVE YOU DONE THEM?
YESSS!!

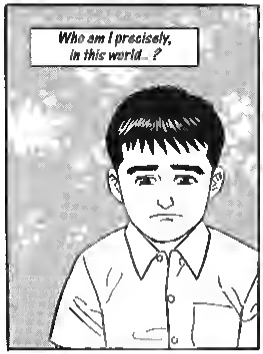

NAKAHARA!
YES SIR?
WHERE WERE YOU DURING VACATION? THE MOON?
HAHAHAHA
WE'RE BACK ON EARTH, NAKAHARA!
NAKAHARA!
HUH?
The past...
Eventually,
I wasn't able to change it...
I was 14 years old,
I was a schoolboy
and I was a good for nothing

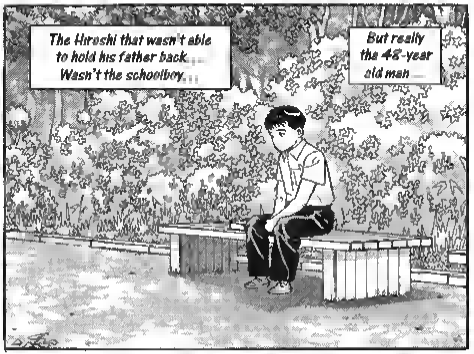
Chapter 8

To the Time Traveller






Who am I precisely, in this world...?


The Hiroshi that wasn't able to hold his father back... Wasn't the schoolboy...
But really the 48-year old man


Who else could understand the dilemma that tormented my father, the dilemma of a middle-aged man who'd stop at nothing to begin a new life?


HAAA
...
At the moment to hold him back
the 14-year old Hiroshi, he wouldn't have hesitated for a second.
I, despite knew everything from the past...
I was unable to change its course...
So, even in a new life, it seemed impossible to have an influence on the main events, concerning a man's life and death


HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
AH! YOU WERE THERE! I KNEW IT!
HAH!
TOMOKO
WHAT'S WITH THE FACE?
HM?
IT SEEMS YOU'RE NOT REALLY IN GOOD SPIRITS.
HM.
QUITE TRUE
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IS IT BECAUSE OF US?
NO.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT
And my story with Tomoko It will have to end one day... But how?


I...
YOU CAN TELL ME EVERY-THING YOU KNOW
HAAA...
...I'LL BE FINE...
IT'S MY PROBLEM I'LL SORT IT OUT MYSELF
It pains me only to think about it...
ANYWAY
I QUITE DISLIKE SEEING YOU IN THIS STATE...
ARE YOU REALLY SURE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO?
DON'T HESITATE, TELL ME!
YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND


AND WHY?
BECAUSE I'M A GIRL, IS THAT IT?
OF COURSE NOT...
THEN TRY TALKING TO ME
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU...
NO UNFORTU-NATELY...
NO ONE CAN HELP ME THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO BE DONE...
WE CAN'T CHANGE IT ANYMORE
WHAT?
WHAT CAN'T WE CHANGE?
TIME...
...TIME GONE BY THAT'S WHAT CAN'T BE CHANGED
I UNDER-STAND IT WELL NOW...
...AND AS FOR YOU AND FOR ME IT WILL BE THE SAME
...?
WH- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR WISH IT WILL BE GRANTED


THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH
BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, HIROSHI?
YOU'RE NOT THE SAME... WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING, I TELL YOU!
A KID CANNOT UNDER-STAND!
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
YOU...
...YOU DON'T LIKE ME ANYMORE
TOMOKO


I...
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
SORRY! SORRY!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
IT'S ME! I'M CLUMSY! I APOLOGIZE!
UHH...
I...
I'M STARTING TO... FEEL THAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, HIROSHI... YOU...
UUUUH...
TOMOKO!


NOOO
At the end of that afternoon
Maybe because I didn't dare to cross mom's eyes anymore...
I didn't have the courage to come back home directly...


DAISUKE...
IS HE HERE BY ANY CHANCE?
IT'S YOU...?
AH!
HELLO
ER...
IS DAISUKE THERE?
AH NO! HE'S GONE WITH HIS MOTHER...
THEY WENT TO VISIT MISTER SHIMADA
AT TOTTORI'S HOSPITAL...
TOTTORI...
HE'LL CERTAINLY BE HOME LATE, SO...
THEY TOLD ME THEY'LL BE HERE IN THE EVENING...
PERHAPS YOU WANT TO COME TO THE BAR FOR A MOMENT? I DON'T HAVE ANY CUSTOMERS YET AT THE MOMENT...
AND BESIDES, I'M BORED ALL BY MYSELF!
WELL... I...


THERE! SIT DOWN THERE
YOUR NAME, WHAT IS IT ALREADY?
HIROSHI
HIROSHI NAKAHARA
SHALL I SERVE YOU A DRINK?
BUT IT'S TO REMAIN BETWEEN US, OK?
YES, THANK YOU
KLIN
MADAM SAYS YOU'RE ABLE TO HOLD DRINKS VERY WELL.
NO
I'M JUST A KID
REALLY
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF ADULT YOU'LL BECOME LATER...
COME ON!
TO YOUR LOVES!
CHEERS!
GULP
SO? HOW IS IT?
HAAH!
IT DID ME A LOT OF GOOD!


HA! HA! HA!
YOU MAY BE A KID, BUT YOU'RE NOT ORDINARY!
IT'S MY FIRST DRINK SINCE... THAT OTHER TIME!
IT'S SMOOTH
HI! HI!
DON'T TELL ME YOU KNOW HOW TO RECOGNIZE A GOOD WHISKY?
BUT I DO!
MY STOMACH'S NOT USED TO IT, BUT MY SENSE OF TASTE IT HAS REMAINED VERY RELIABLE!
OOH!
AREN'T YOU SHOWING OFF A BIT TOO MUCH?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? I KNOW A BUNCH OF LIQUORS YOU CAN'T CATCH ME OUT ON BOURBON AND BRANDY!
YOU TALK LIKE A REAL CONNOISSEUR!
GL!
HMM-MMM!
WELL IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE...
THAT YOU HOLD DRINKS WELL!
What can I say, nothing beats a little drink, whenever you're in a sticky situation!


GL!
KLI:
HAAA!
ER...
AND YOU, MY SWEET, YOU'RE NOT DRINKING WITH ME ANYMORE?
AT THIS RATE...
I'LL BE DRUNK LONG BEFORE YOU!
WELL YES, BUT...
D...DAISUKE'S DAD, DID HE LEAVE HIS FAMILY FOR A... ANOTHER WOMAN?
YES...
OUR BOSS SURE COMPLAINED A LOT!
AH THAT, MY BOY...
IS THE GREAT MYSTERY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN!
YEARS CAN GO BY, YOU, MEN... YOU'LL JUST REMAIN KIDS! BUT ON TOP OF ALL THAT, YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND A DULL WOMAN TO FORGIVE YOU!
THAT HE WAS A DRUNKARD AND A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!
KLIN
WELL, BUT... WHAT THE HECK IS SHE DOING AT TOTTORI THEN? WHY IS SHE G GOING TO SEE HIM?


WHEN HE FELL SICK, HE'D BEEN DUMPED BY THE OTHER WOMAN
AS A RESULT HE CAME BACK SNIVELLING TO OUR BOSS' APRON
SHE TALKS OF HIS FAULTS, JUST LIKE THAT, LOUDLY. BUT BASICALLY SHE LOVES HIM, AND THAT'S ALL.
FFFFHH
IT'S SOMETHING YOU MAY BE A BIT TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND
AND SHE HOPES HE'LL BE BACK WHEN HE'S USED UP THE WHOLE BOX
SHE TELLS HERSELF HE'S LIKE A KID WHO DISCOVERS A BOX OF MATCHES. HE KNOWS IT BURNS BUT HE CAN'T KEEP HIMSELF FROM PLAYING WITH IT
MEN, THEY ALWAYS WANT US TO FORGIVE THEM...
GIRLS ARE OPEN-MINDED, SO MEN THEY JUST DON'T MIND
IN THE MEAN-TIME...
ME, I DON'T FORGIVE ANYTHING ANYMORE!
...DESPAIR, TEARS, IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME PERSON SUFFERING
GL!
YEAH! T THEY HAVE TO LIVE THROUGH ROUGH TIMES!
HM? ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
WELL YES.
I UNDERSTAND YOU. I... YOUR STORY IT MOVES ME...
GL!


YOU ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU'RE 14 YEARS OLD?
DON'T WORRY I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING I'VE MY R. REASONS TO DRINK.
HUUU!
ANO-THER DRINK!
WHAT! DIDN'T HE DRINK ENOUGH ALREADY THIS BOY?
HO!
WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'RE DRUNK?
POF..
YUKO
OH MY!
AYAKOOO
HME AKIKO


HEY! KID! SNAP OUT OF IT!
HM...
PRECOCIOUS CHILD
WHO WERE ALL THESE WOMEN YOU WERE CALLING OUT?
AH...
AAH...
THEY WERE... MY... MY...
MY WIFE ...AND MY D... DAUGHTERS...
AH NO!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ST..RT RAVING ARE YOU?
HE! HE! HE! HEE!
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE IN THIS STATE...
GO HOME!
YEAH
OWW!
Haaa... Seams like I drank too much again...


She kicked me out of the bar...
I was drunk...
The evening breeze was pleasant...
I was staggering forward...


WHAT WAS THAT THING?
HM?
GENZEN TEMPLE?
WHAT THE...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING AROUND HERE?
GFF!
BY THE WAY THAT'S RIGHT...
IT'S HERE THAT I CAME BACK INTO THIS WORLD THAT I WAS RE-BORN.
HA! HA! HA! HA!


The graveyard was quiet
My mind clouded I went into...
THE FAMILY TOMB FROM MOTHER'S SIDE...
AND IT'S BECAUSE D DAD DISAP-PEARED
THAT SHE'LL END UP HERE
MOM...


I...
FROM TODAY ON...
INSTEAD OF DAD I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU
At that very moment, I was overwhelmed by an irresistible desire to sleep
HMF
POF



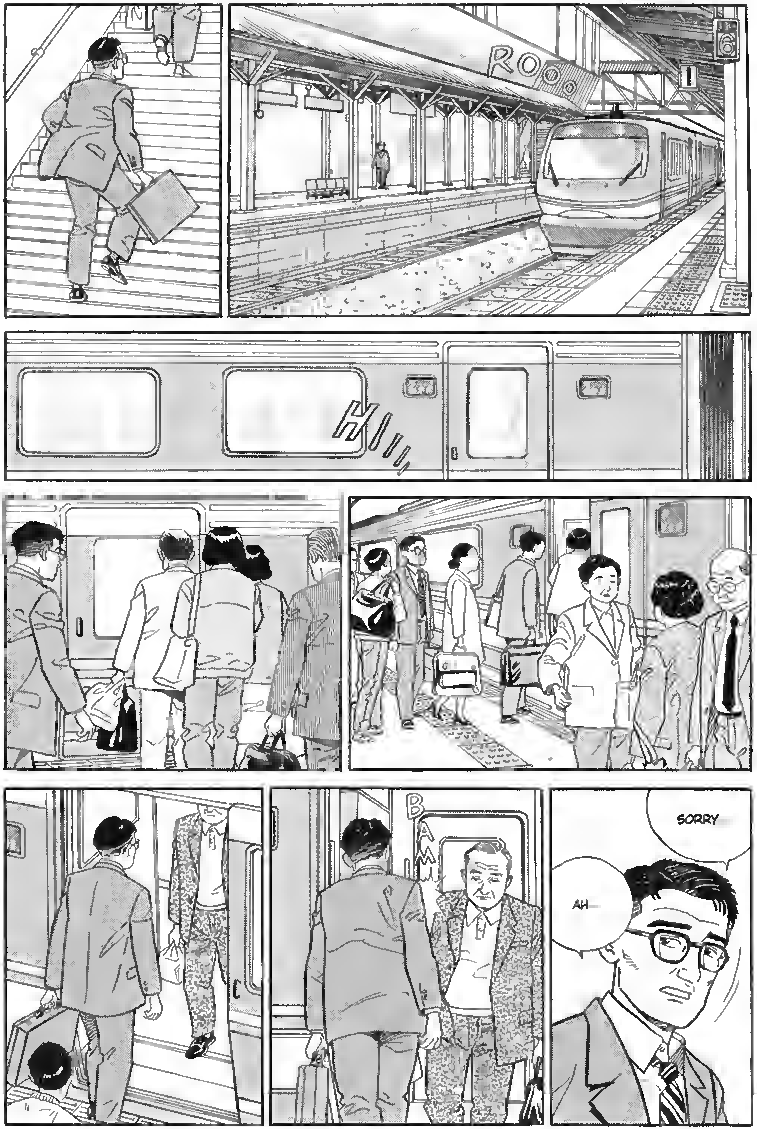

PAF
HUUU


HM?
At the moment when I wanted to stand up...
...I felt that my body had suddenly become heavier...

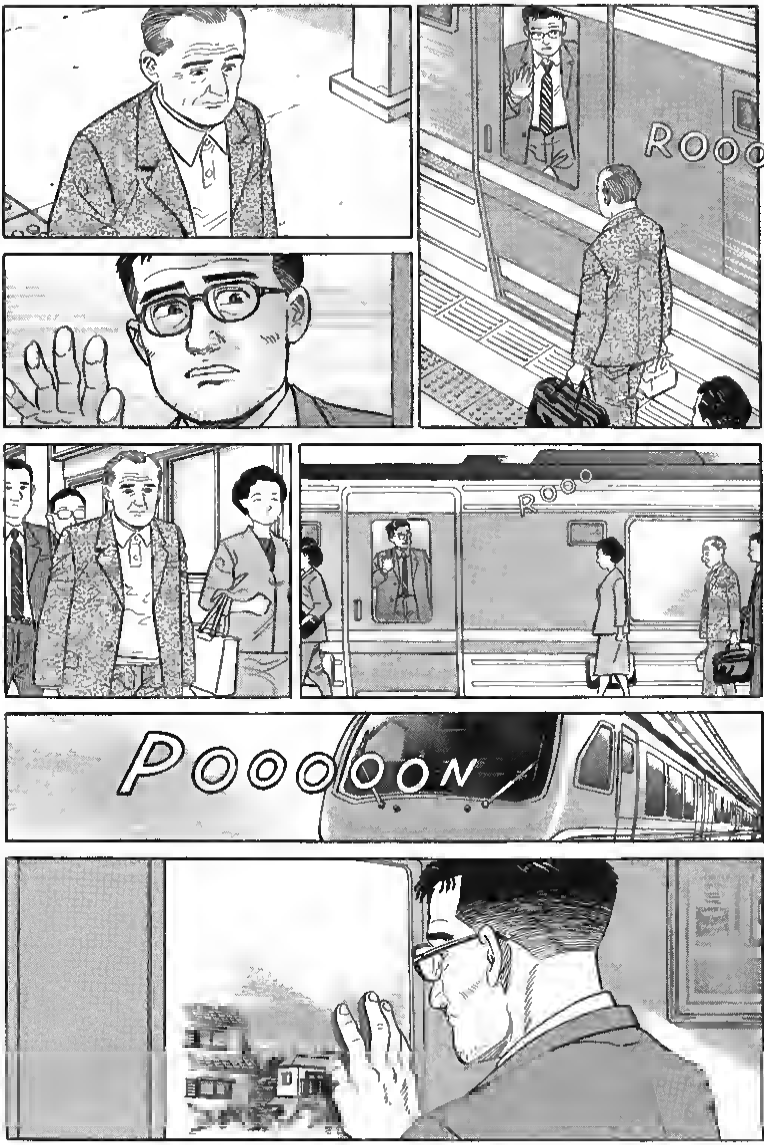

SO, THAT WAS A DREAM...?
I still felt dizzy Yet, I remembered very clearly...
..A few seconds ago, I was 14 years old!
Who was I? Who was the real Hiroshi...? I didn't know anymore.


Once more, I thought I was walking in a dream
But my feet have naturally guided me to my street... to my home...
What was that, exactly?
A dream? But such a long one
4:15 PM
I CAN STILL CATCH IT!

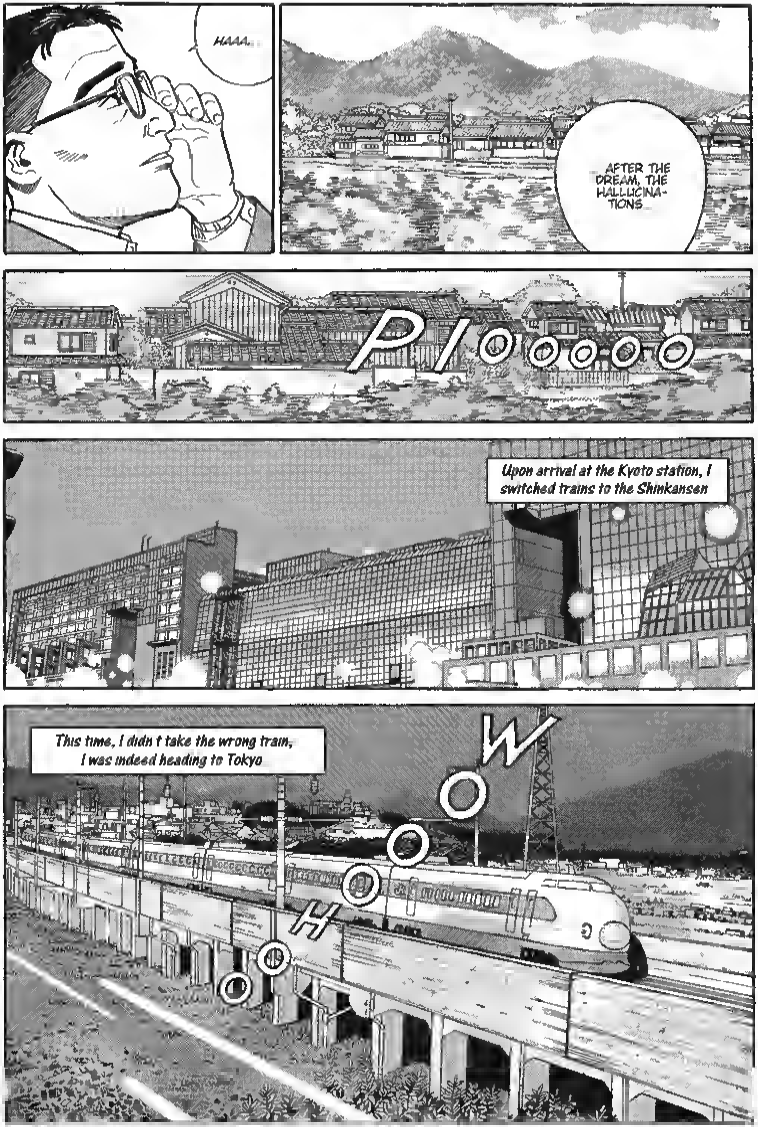

FOR THE SHINKANSEN DEPARTING FROM KYOTO
A ONE-WAY TICKET TO TOKYO, PLEASE
THE TRAIN HAS JUST ARRIVED PLATFORM NUMBER 2
HURRY UP!


ROOO
6
1
HIII
BAM
SORRY
AH


PULULU
...?!?
PSHHH
KLONK
ROOO
DAD...?


ROOO
ROOO
POOOOON


I COULD HAVE SWORN IT WAS DAD
BUT WHY ?
HAAA
WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN? THAT THE DREAM IS CONTINUING? I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ANYMORE
BEERS DRIED SQUID
NEWS-PAPERS AND MAG-AZINES
AH!
EXCUSE ME! DO YOU HAVE TODAY'S NEWSPA-PER?
YES
AND A COFFEE PLEASE
YES
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR
4月9日
APRIL 1998, THE 9TH
GLUPS!
UCC


HAAA...
...AFTER THE DREAM, THE HALLUCINATIONS...
P10000
Upon arrival at the Kyoto station, I switched trains to the Shinkansen
This time, I didn't take the wrong train, I was indeed heading to Tokyo
WOOH



CD NAKAHARA ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND STUDIES OFFICE


HIROSHI! FINALLY, THERE YOU ARE!
YOU'RE COMING BACK HOME LATE!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU CALLED ME?
YUKO...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING ON THE FACE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
?
YOU... YOU'RE STRANGE...
...YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER, I HOPE?
HAVE YOU EATEN? DO YOU WANT ME TO PREPAIRE SOMETHING FOR YOU?
SURE THANKS


GOOD EVENING DAD!
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TRIP?
YOU...
YOU'RE STILL UP THE TWO OF YOU?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WE WERE WORRYING! WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU!
NO, REALLY!
WE WERE AFRAID THAT YOU COULD HAVE FARTIED TOO MUCH AND THAT YOU COULD BE LYING SOMEWHERE ON THE STREETS!
AH, REALLY?
WELL, I...
SORRY, GIRLS
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, DAD?
HUH? NOTHING WHY?
WELL...
YOU'RE NOT THE SAME YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING
"WHAT THE HELL IS GOING OOON??? YOU'RE STILL NOT IN BED??? GO TO BED NOW, HURRY!!!"
HAHA!
THAT'S TRUE...


My two darlings... I love them so much...
WELL! I'M GOING TO BED
GOOD NIGHT, EVERY-ONE
HAAA... ME TOO...
ALREADY ?
STAY A LITTLE LONGER. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR SO LONG...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU WERE AWAY FOR ONLY TWO SHORT DAYS WEREN'T YOU?
DAD, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD TODAY...
YEP! WEIRD WEIRD!
AH! BY THE WAY...
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE YOUR FRIEND TO ME, THE YOUNG YAMADA?
WHAT?
YOU... YOU KNOW ABOUT ERR...?


MOM!
YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT IT IN THE END?
NO... I HAVEN'T SAID ANY-THING...
ANYWAY, INVITE HIM OVER SOMEDAY, OKAY?
WHAT'S GOING ON, MOM???
I DON'T KNOW! BUT...
THAT'S A RATHER GOOD THING, ISN'T IT? THINGS ARE GOING TO PROG-RESS!
His own family ...The one who was fleeing from it... It was me...
AH, THAT REMINDS ME!
HIROSHI, THERE'S A PACKAGE FOR YOU!
AH, YES?
WHO IS IT FROM?
AYAKO!
THE PACKAGE IN THE OFFICE... CAN YOU BRING IT?
OK!
"DAIZAFURO HORIE" WAS WRITTEN ON IT. THAT'S A BIT STRANGE
YOU KNOW THE FAMOUS WRITER?
HORIE? NO NEVER READ...
HERE
AH!
THANKS

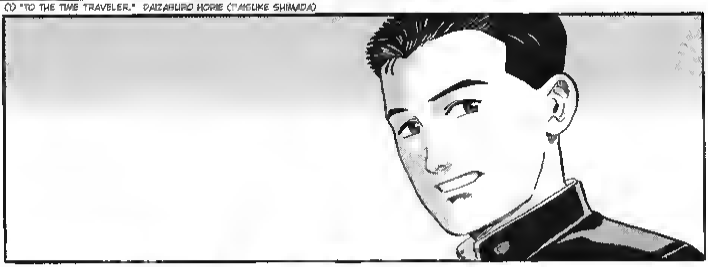


(1) SINCE 1935 THE PRESTIGIOUS NAOKI PRIZE IS GIVEN TWO TIMES A YEAR TO THE GREAT FIGURES OF CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE LITERATURE

(2) "(　) TIME-TRAVELER (　)"



CD "TO THE TIME TRAVELER." DAISABURO HORIE ("MIZUKE SHIMADA)





This is how Harukana Machi-E ends, with no 'end' word, just a blank page where I'm writing those words; It was one of my favourites manga titles, although too short sadly (would've been a blast to read more of it). I hope you readers had as much fun as we did working on it.

-Rargh

The following people made it possible:

[SQ]Azazel; lutiak; katydid; dmpk2k; Cawnella W.; Finnpest, Chibidoli; Lord Blackmane; Vivian; kuraizie; Slann; easytodestroy, And, last but not least, Jiro Taniguchi for making such great mangas, **you're the man!**


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